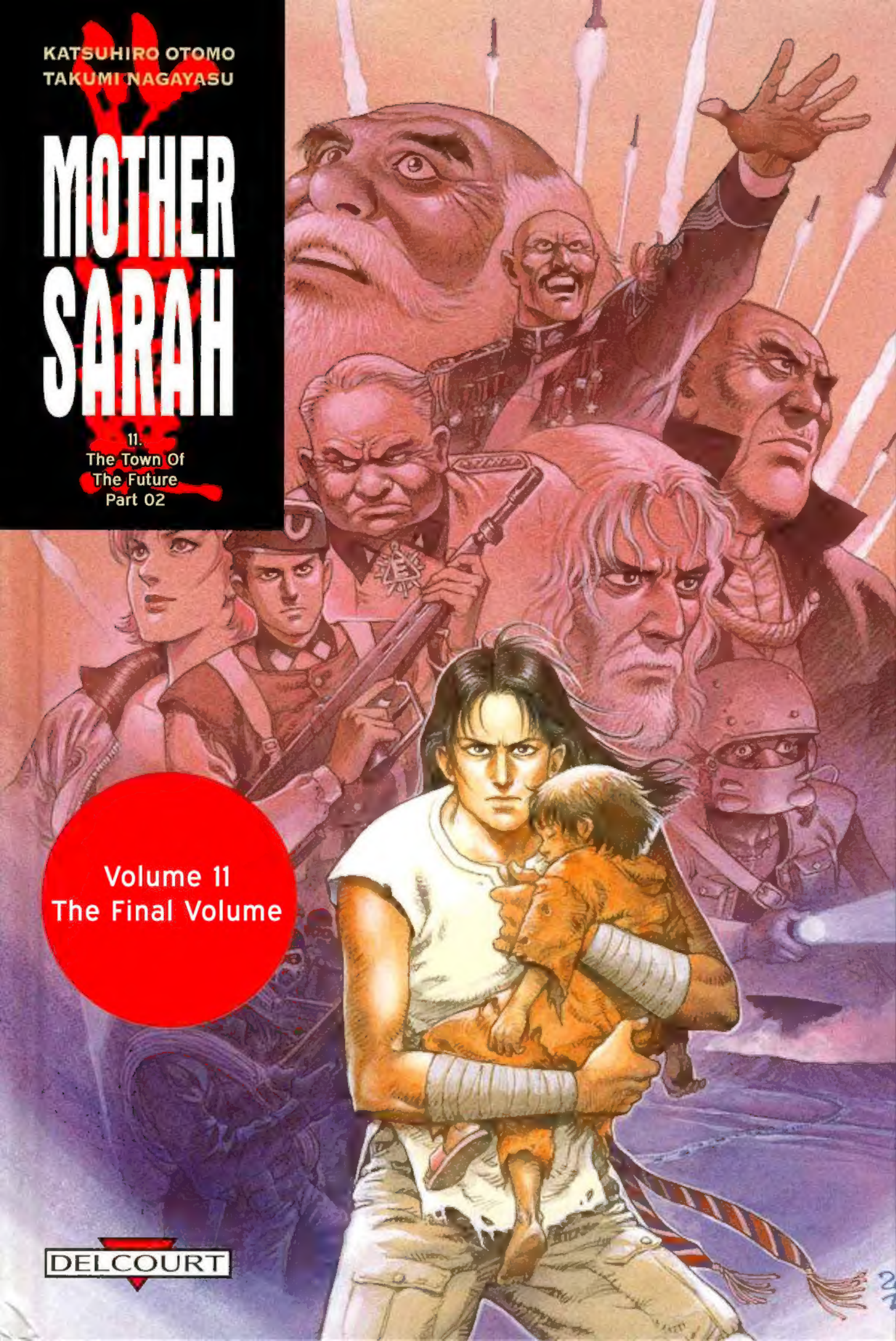
KATSUHIRO OTOMO
TAKUMI NAGAYASU

MOTHER SARAH

11.
The Town Of
The Future
Part 02



Volume 11
The Final Volume

DELCOURT

MOTHER SARAH

II.
The Town Of The Future
Part 02

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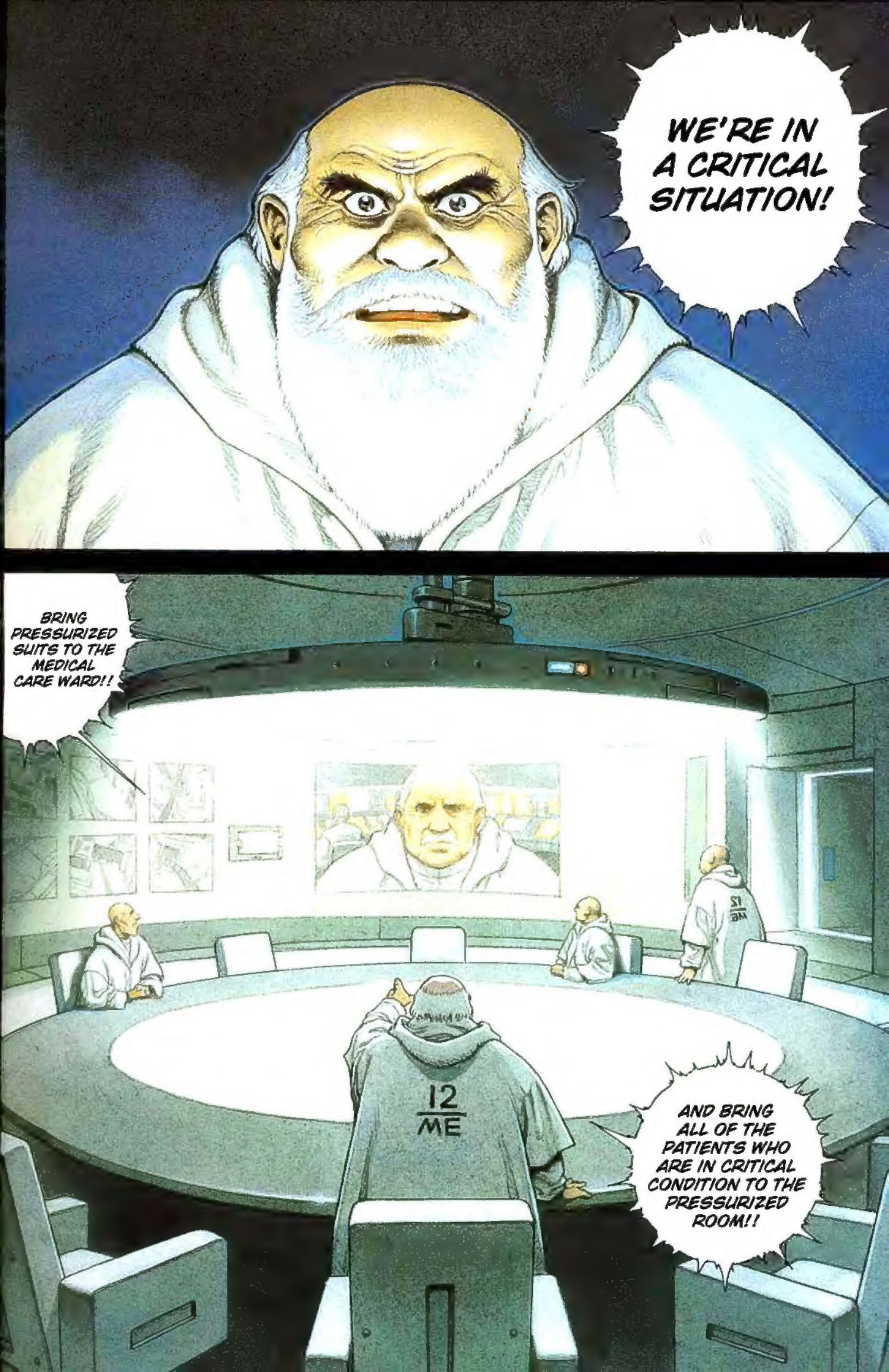
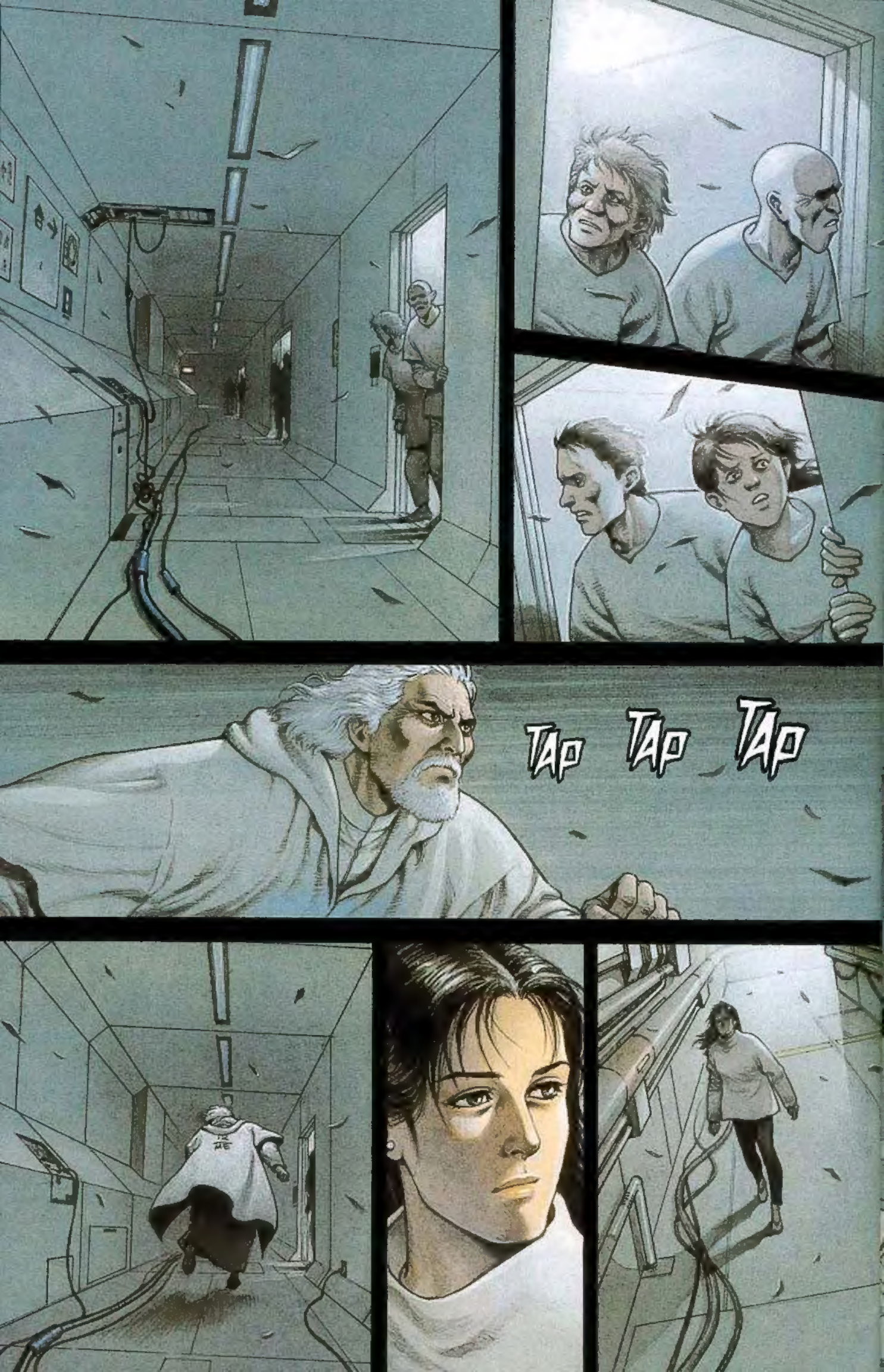
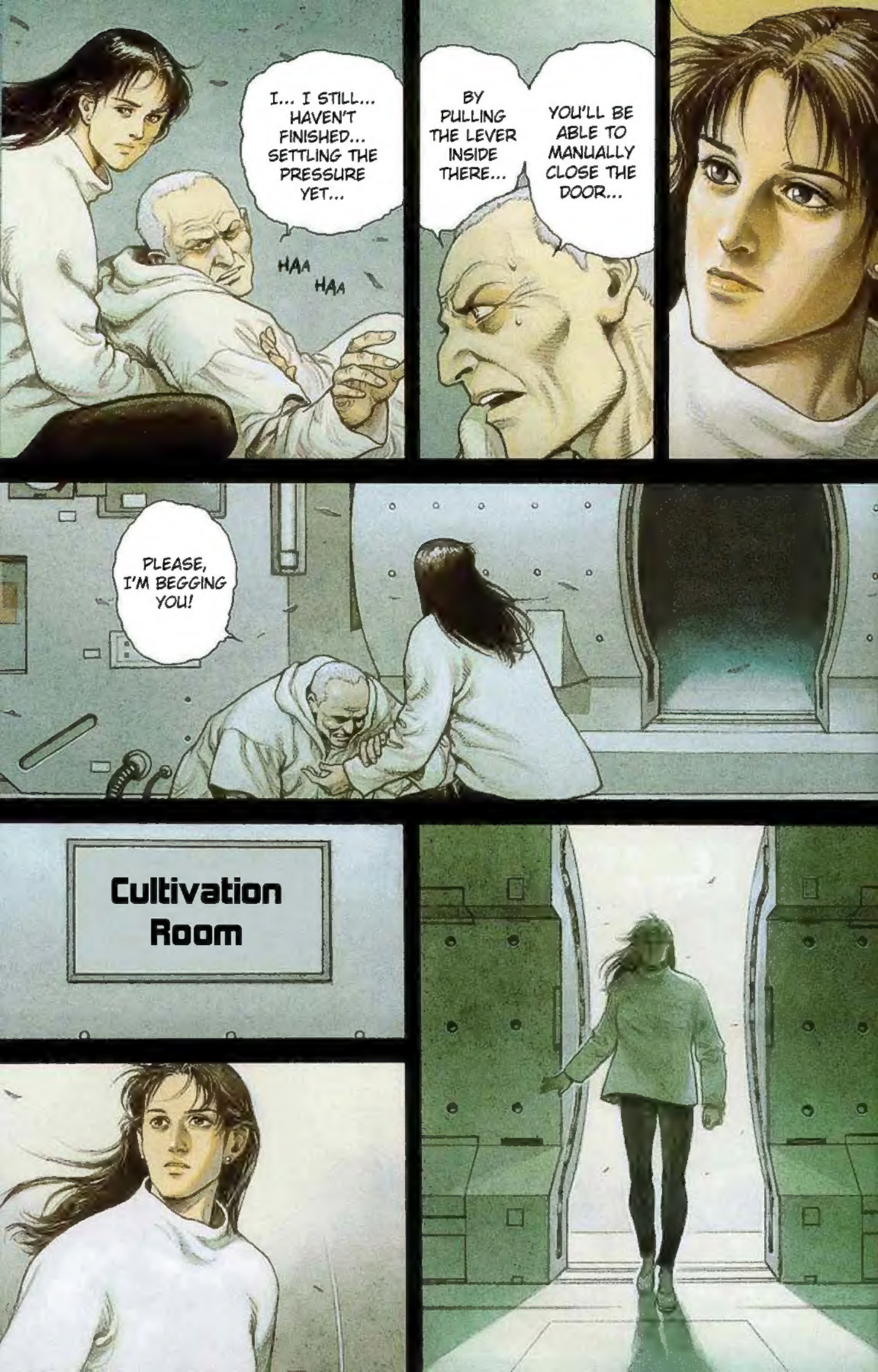
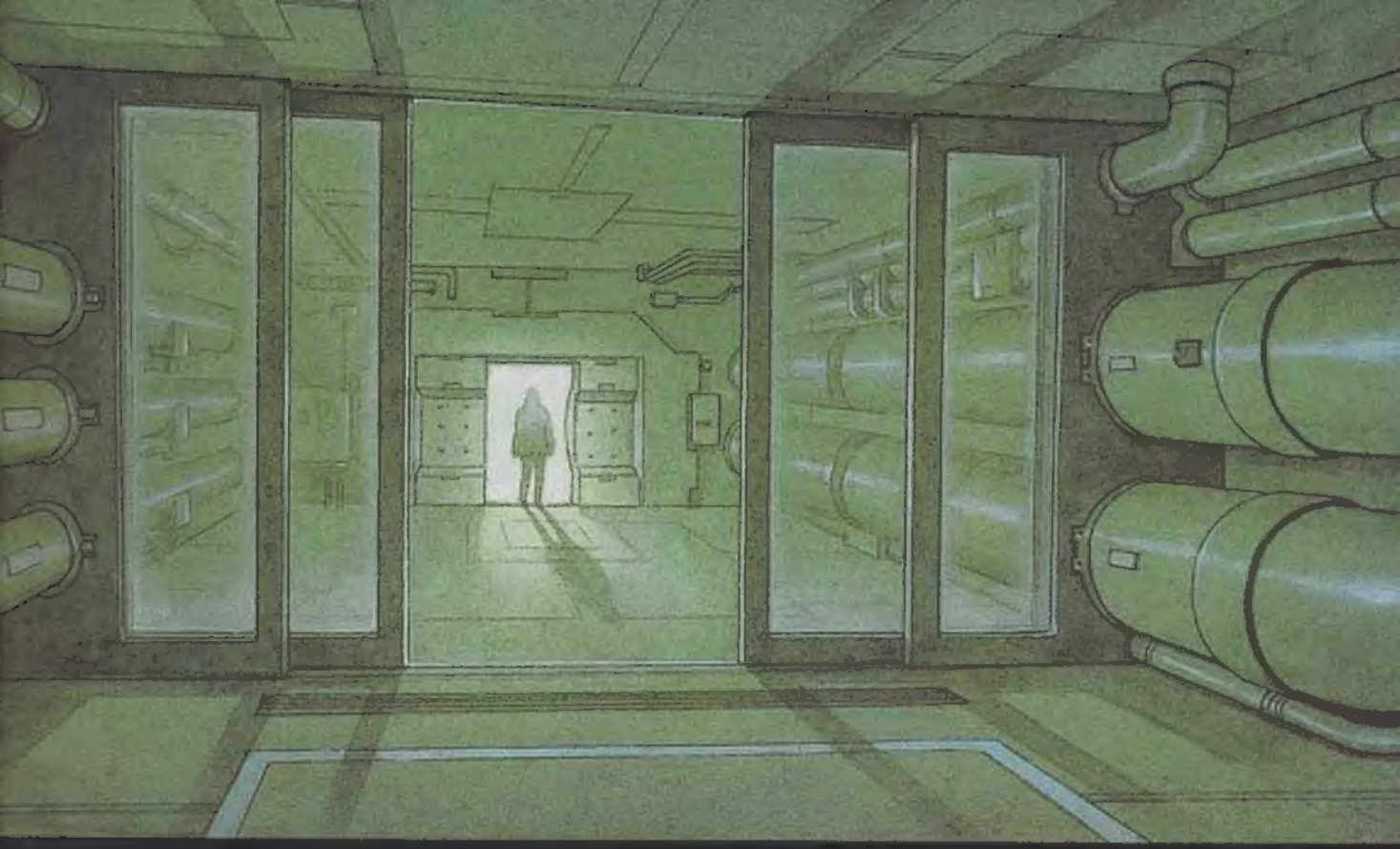
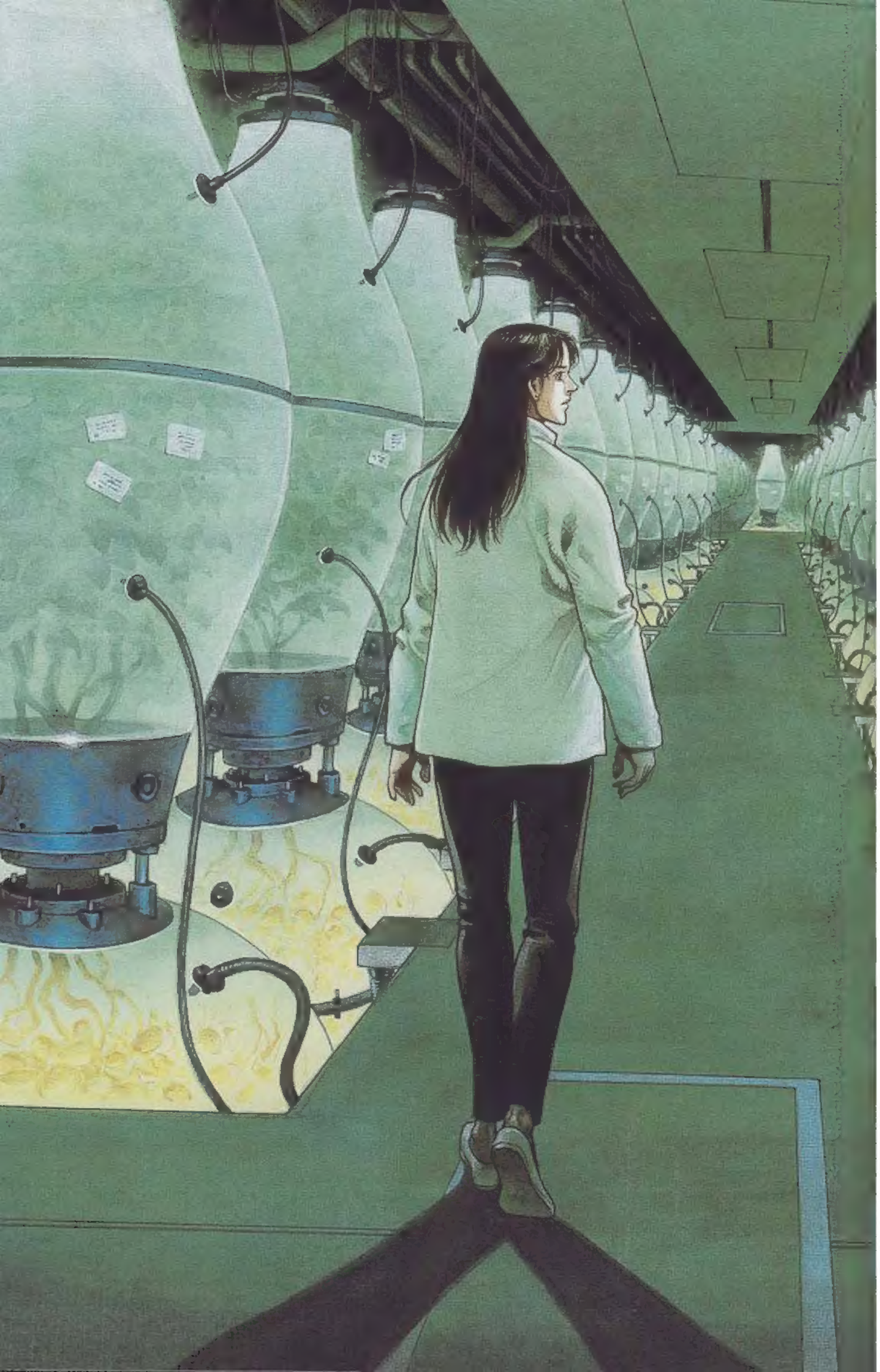

WE'RE IN A CRITICAL SITUATION!
BRING PRESSURIZED SUITS TO THE MEDICAL CARE WARD!!
12/ME
AND BRING ALL OF THE PATIENTS WHO ARE IN CRITICAL CONDITION TO THE PRESSURIZED ROOM!!


TAP TAP TAP

Cultivation Room
MISTER! ARE YOU OKAY!?
IT... IT MUST BE CLOSED...


I... I STILL... HAVEN'T FINISHED... SETTLING THE PRESSURE YET...
HAA HAA
BY PULLING THE LEVER INSIDE THERE...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MANUALLY CLOSE THE DOOR...
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
Cultivation Room



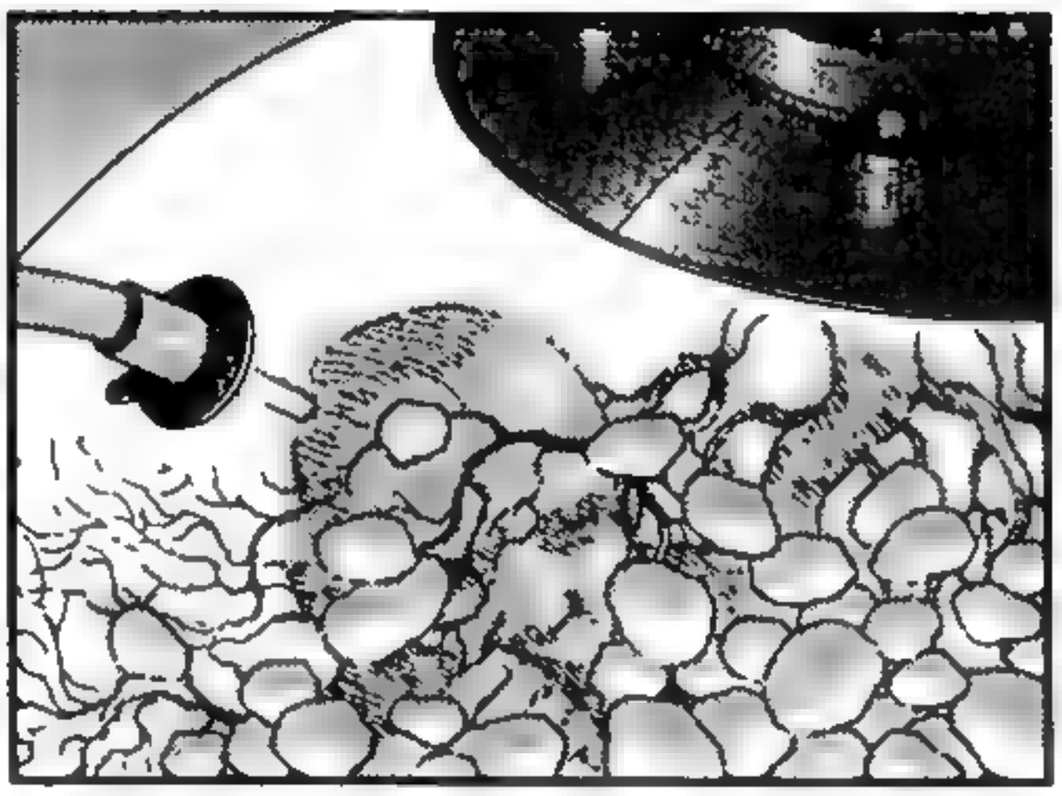


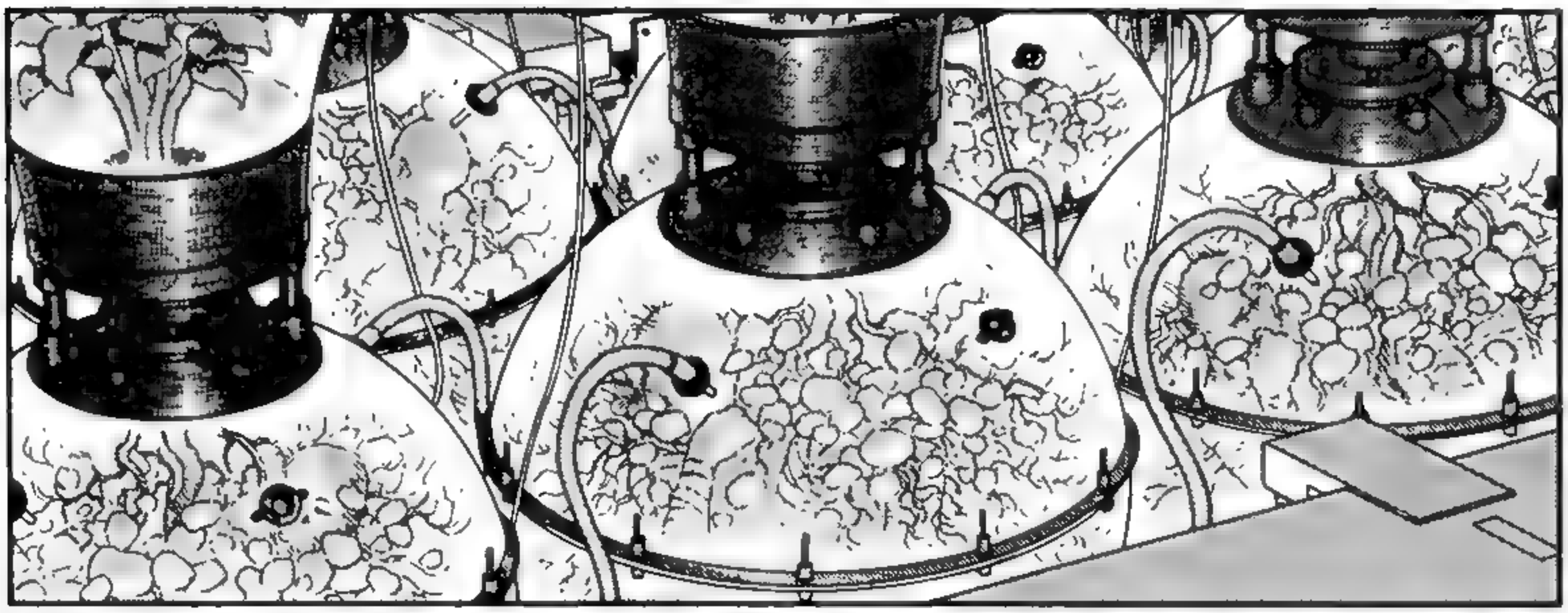
72-X

POTA-
TOES?

!

WH-
WHAT IN
THE...!?





NO... YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...

SARAAAAH!

GLING

BARD...

GLP

GLP

GLP

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!

BARD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING... IN THIS PLACE!?

GLP

12/ME

I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED,

AND I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU SOON.

BUT FOR NOW, LET'S HEAD BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

Elvation oom

YOU CAN CLOSE IT NOW!

ME

LET'S GO! THE ENVIRONMENT IN OUR ROOM IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE ON EARTH.

IF YOU LEAVE IT FOR TOO LONG, THERE'S A CHANCE YOU'LL START SUFFERING FROM MIGRAINE HEADACHES AND VERTIGO.

CLANG

Cultivation Room

TCHAC

!

Bwiiiii

SHAK!

OH SHIT, HURRY!!

MOTHER FUCKER!!

TRRR

LBAM

GAHH!!

AAAAAAH

GOT 'EM!

HAVE THE GUARDS INVESTIGATE. IF THERE ARE ANY SURVIVORS, CAPTURE THEM AND BRING THEM TO ME.

ROGER!

TAP TAP

HAVE THEY RESTORED THE INSULATION GATES IN ALL THE BLOCKS, MONROUGE?

!

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GATES FROM BLOCKS 50 TO 70 IS UNDERWAY, BUT...

THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO ABANDON THE LOWER BLOCKS.

HAVE YOU UNCOVERED THE INTRUDERS?

NO MATTER. THEY'LL GET USED TO THAT ATMOSPHERE SOONER OR LATER.

I JUST SENT A SEARCH PARTY TO THE SURFACE!

URGH...

...

HOW IS HE?

HE'S ONLY UNCONSCIOUS!

I'M HAVING A TOUGH TIME UNDERSTANDING WHY THEY WERE TREATED THIS WAY WHEN THEY BELONG TO THAT VERY SAME *M.E.*...

YOU DON'T SAY...

SO SATOKO AND HARATO ARE ALIVE...

THEY MUST HAVE GROWN A LOT BY NOW, RIGHT?

...

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF LIKE THIS, SARAH.

I'M THE ONE WHO STAYED IN THE COLONY AND COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ALL OF YOU... PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

THE REBELLION THAT ERUPTED AFTER THAT RETURN... IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE KILLED ONE ANOTHER.

WE KILLED FRIENDS AND EVEN CHILDREN.

!

BUT, YOU KNOW... A LOT OF THINGS HAVE CHANCE HERE TOO...

BUT I DID ALL OF THAT...

BECAUSE I BELIEVED IN THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE?

YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT

WE, MOTHER EARTH, ARE SACRIFICING OURSELVES SO THAT THE HUMAN RACE MAY LIVE ON.

ALSO, WE MUST LIVE FOR THOSE PRICELESS LIVES THAT WERE LOST FOR A GRAND OBJECTIVE.

FOR THAT REASON, WE RETURNED TO EARTH!

AND THOSE CORPSES?

IN THE COLONY, THERE WERE SEEDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LEFT AS SPECIMENS THAT ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN USED UP ON EARTH.

SO THAT THEY WOULD BECOME RESILIENT TO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS, WE IMPROVED THEM GENETICALLY AND ESTABLISHED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES WITH STABLE PRODUCTION.

IT WAS A SUCCESS!

BUT, IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE A STRONG VITALITY, WE HAD TO GIVE THEM SUFFICIENT NUTRITION DURING THE SEEDING STAGE.

THAT'S WHY WE CHOSE TO USE OUR BODIES.

ACTUALLY, NO, THAT'S INCORRECT. WE HAD NO *CHOICE* BUT TO USE OUR BODIES!

BUT...

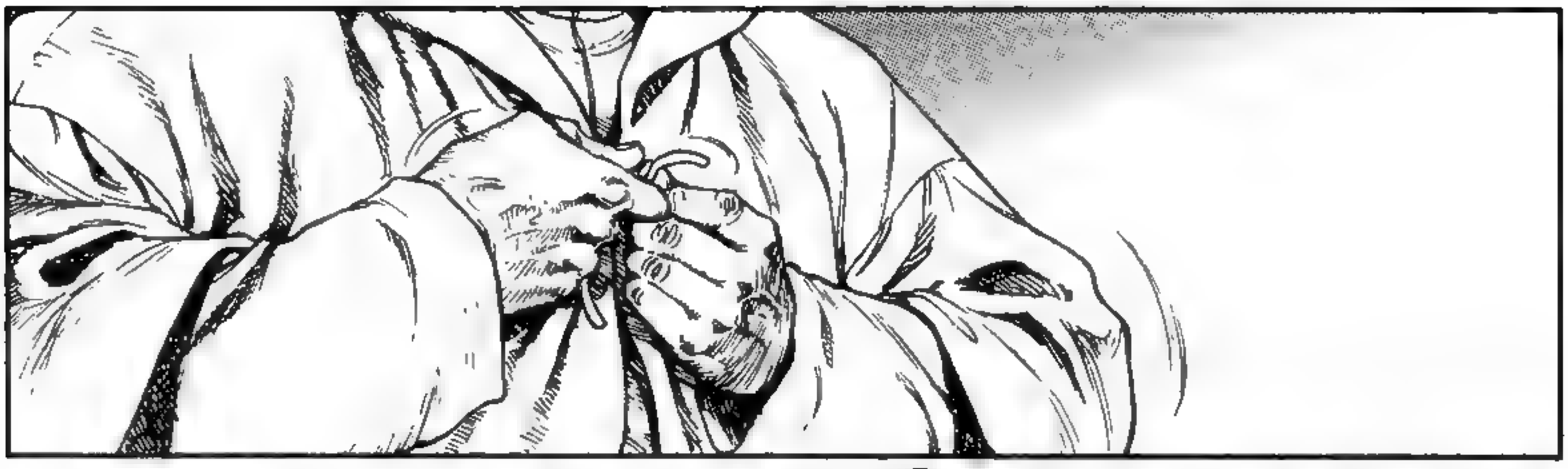
THESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL ROOT INTO THE GROUND AND CREATE NEW CROPS...

THEN, THE THOUSANDS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS WILL ACTIVATE IN THE GROUND, WHICH WILL FERTILIZE THE SOIL.

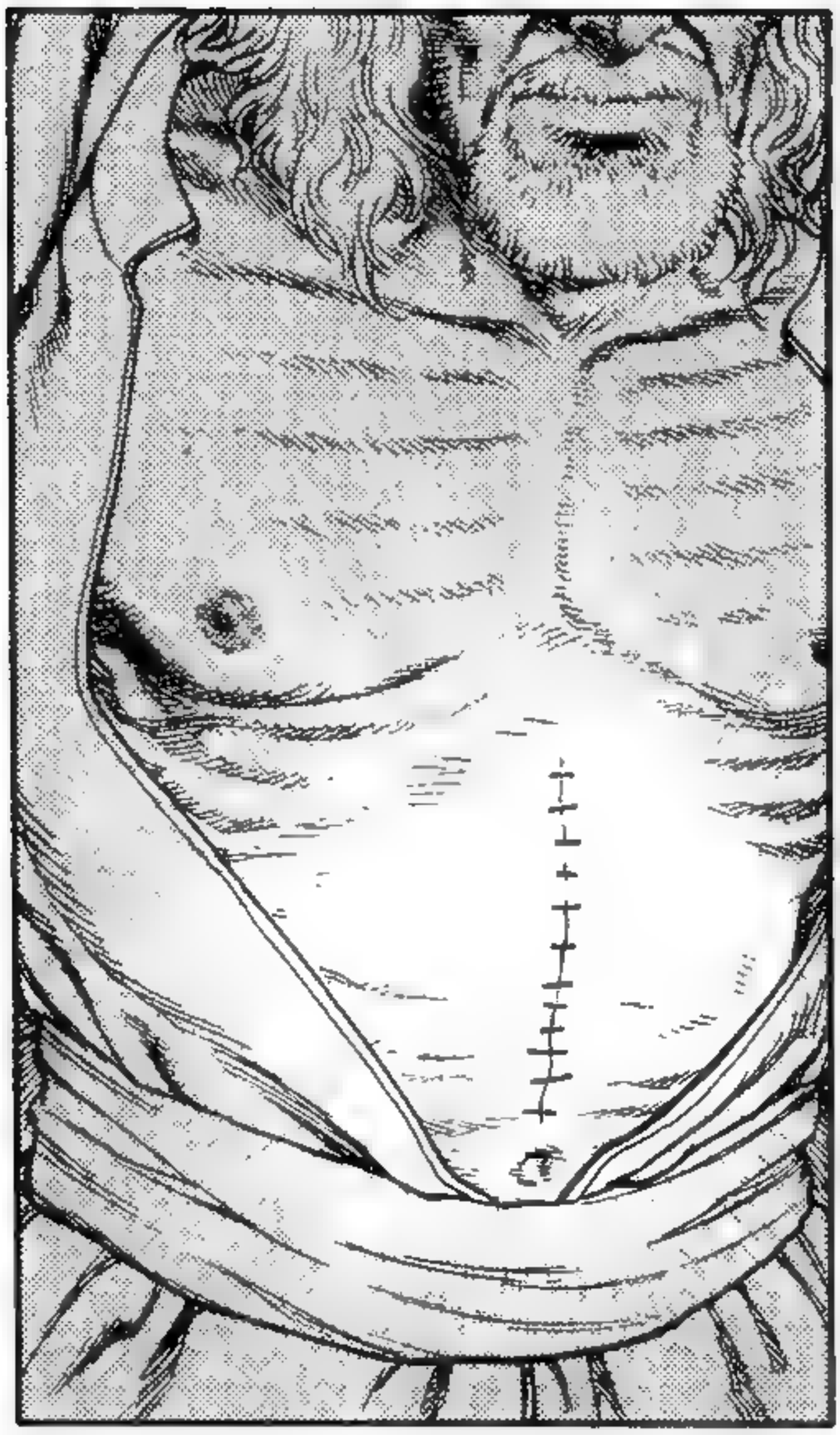
AND THIS WILL SUBSEQUENTLY RESTORE THE CHAIN OF LIFE THAT WAS SEVERED!

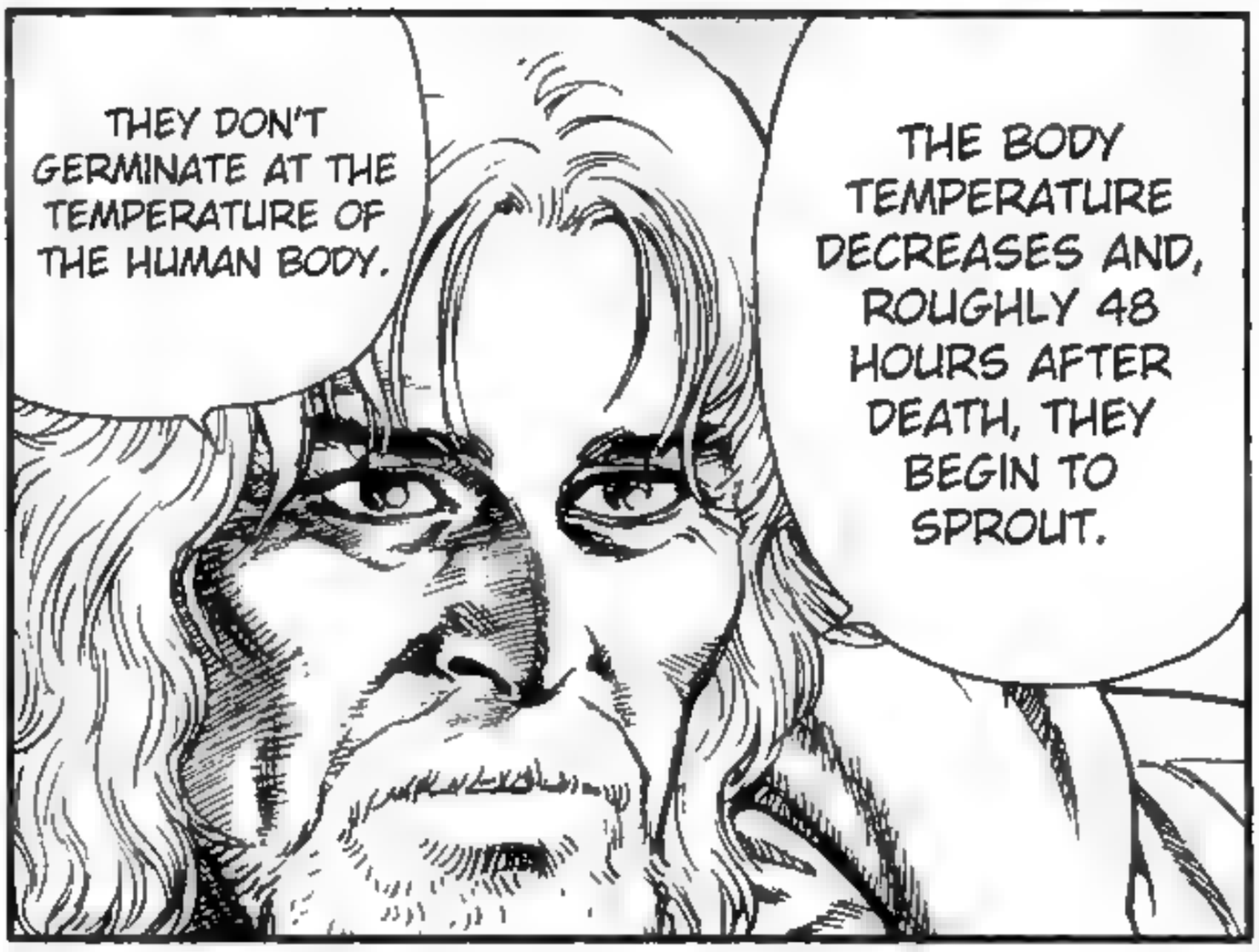
A NEW DAY IS UPON US!

SO, YOU... THOSE SEEDS...



SHLAF
!
12
ME




THEY DON'T GERMINATE AT THE TEMPERATURE OF THE HUMAN BODY.
THE BODY TEMPERATURE DECREASES AND, ROUGHLY 48 HOURS AFTER DEATH, THEY BEGIN TO SPROUT.

THEN...
YOU'RE RESIGNING YOURSELVES TO DEATH?

WE'RE NOT IN ANY RUSH, BUT...

NOBODY'S IMMUNE TO DEATH.

FOR THAT TIME AND FOR THE EARTH...

12 / ME

WE WILL BECOME THE GRAINS OF EARTH, AND WE WILL LIVE FOREVER.

THOSE WORDS...

LATER ON, IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT...

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO LET ME PLANT THEM IN YOUR BODY AS WELL.

...

BR BRRRR RR RR

BRRR-R

BRRRRR

R

R

RR

RR

...

THAT THING'S HUGE...

INDEED...

EVEN FROM THIS FAR OUT...

HOW'S THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ARTILLERY GOING?

OUR MEN ARE TAKING CARE OF IT NOW, COMMANDER!

AND THE CAMOUFLAGE WILL BE DONE AROUND SUNDOWN.

ARTILLERY? WHERE?

BRAAM

THEY REMAIN HIDDEN BY THAT HILL. THEY CAN'T BE SEEN FROM HERE.

SKRIIIII

SKRIIIII

CRAC

THIS IS ONE OF LIEUTENANT TOMARU'S SUBORDI-NATES!

EXPLAIN THE CURRENT SITUATION TO THE COMMANDER!

TCHAC

LIEUTENANT TOMARU LEFT WITH A TEAM TWO DAYS AGO TO INVESTIGATE THE COLONY AND WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM HIM SINCE.

BECAUSE IT WAS COVERT OPERATION, WE CAN'T ASK THE COLONY DIRECTLY.

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU, COMMANDER!

WHAT!?

COULD THEY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, OR WERE THEY KILLED?

EITHER WAY, WE JUST GAVE THEM

A HUGE ADVANTAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS...

AND YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY FORM OF COMMUNICATION FROM THEM?

ALL COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF, MR. PRESIDENT!

GOD DAMNED IDIOTS!!

BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE BEST THING WOULD BE TO GET IN CONTACT WITH THE COLONY TO SET UP A DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

AND NOT GIVE THEM THE TIME TO REACT.

THEY'LL ONLY ANSWER US WHEN THEY'RE READY!

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED COMMUNICATION FROM COMMANDER HAMED OF *M.E.*, IN WHICH HE REQUESTS AN INTERVIEW.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

IT ISN'T A PETITION FROM THE ENTIRE PEACE CONFERENCE...

IT'S FROM M.E. ALONE?

HE SAYS THAT HE IS A MESSENGER FROM THE PEACE CONFERENCE!

IT SEEMS THAT THE INTRUDERS WERE WEARING M.E. UNIFORMS.

TWO OF THEM HAVE DIED!

AND THE TWO SURVIVORS ARE UNCONSCIOUS AND IN SERIOUS CONDITION! WE CANNOT INTERROGATE THEM ABOUT THEIR MISSION IN THEIR CURRENT STATE!

I WONDER IF THEY WANT TO UNIFY M.E. BEFORE THE CONFERENCE?

THIS IS ALSO A TEST...

THAT WE MUST OVERCOME!

DUE TO THIS MATTER OF THE INTRUDERS, THE RATE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN THE COLONY'S INTERIOR HAS INCREASED.

HOW ARE THE DAMAGE REPAIRS GOING?

THE CULTIVATION ROOM IS IN TROUBLE!

IT WILL STILL TAKE US TIME TO COMPLETELY REPAIR IT AND, IF THIS KEEPS UP, THE TEMPERATURE OF THE ROOM WILL REACH THE EXTERIOR TEMPERATURE WITHIN TWELVE HOURS.

FROM NOW ON, WE MUST DEVOTE 60% OF THE COLONY'S ELECTRICITY TO COOLING THE CONSERVATION ROOM.

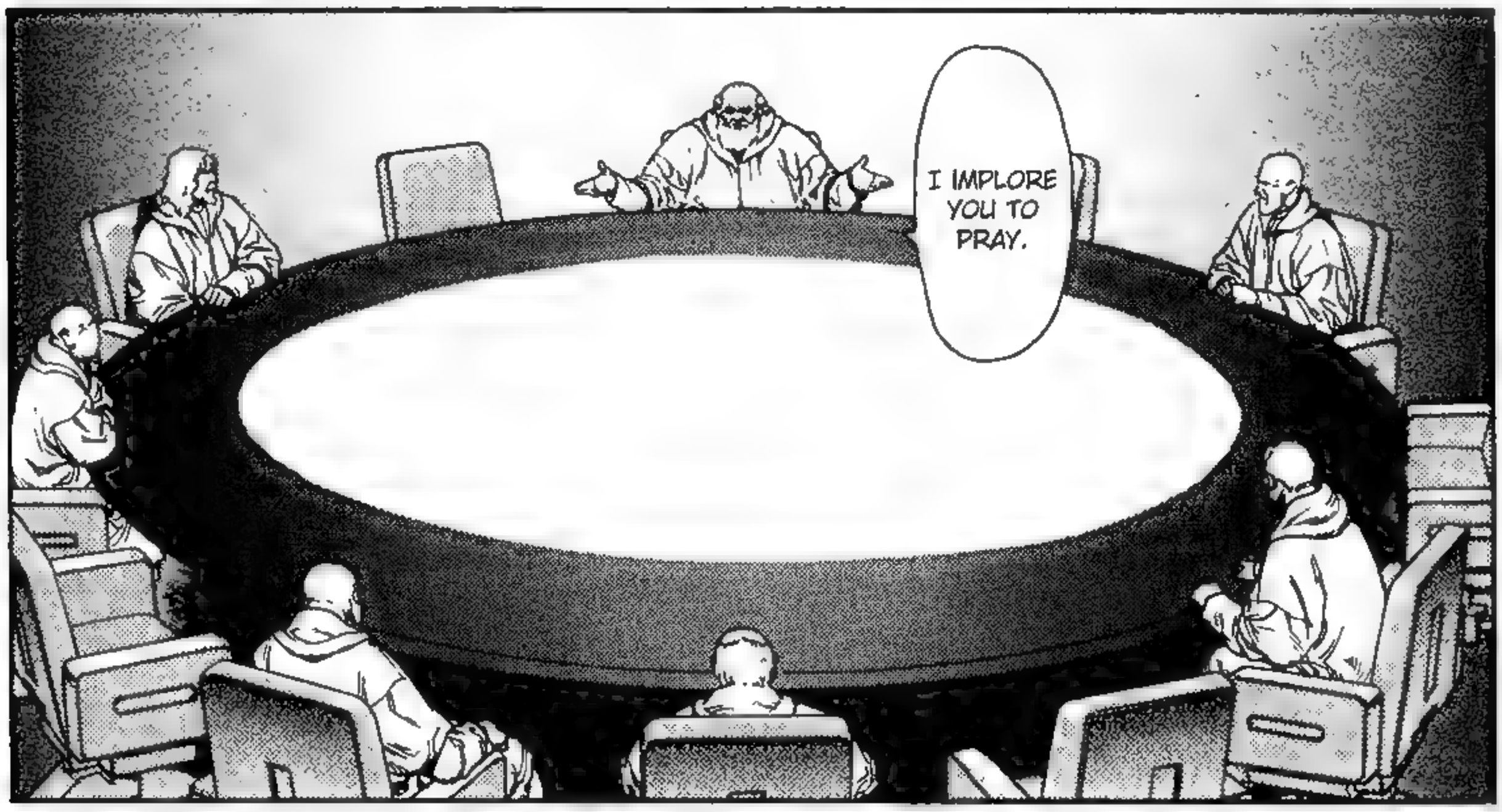
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO LOSE.

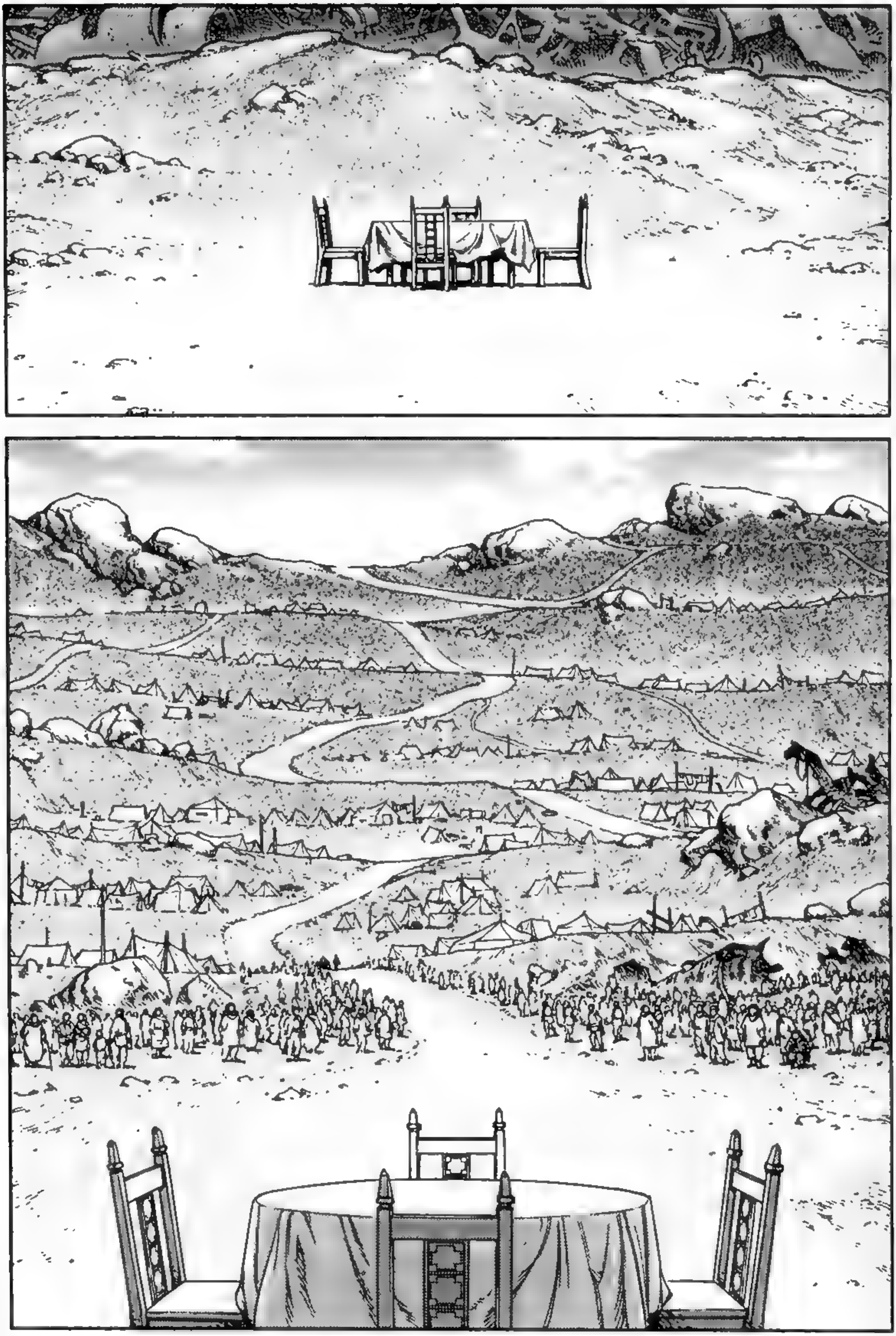
WHO WILL GO TO THE INTERVIEW?

FORM AND I WILL GO!

ONCE I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK, I INTEND TO STICK TO OUR PLAN REGARDING OUR STATEMENTS.

AND FOR WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT...


I IMPLORE YOU TO PRAY.



SCHLA

SCHLA

SCHLA

SCHLA

SCHLA

LOOK AT THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE GATHERED HERE...

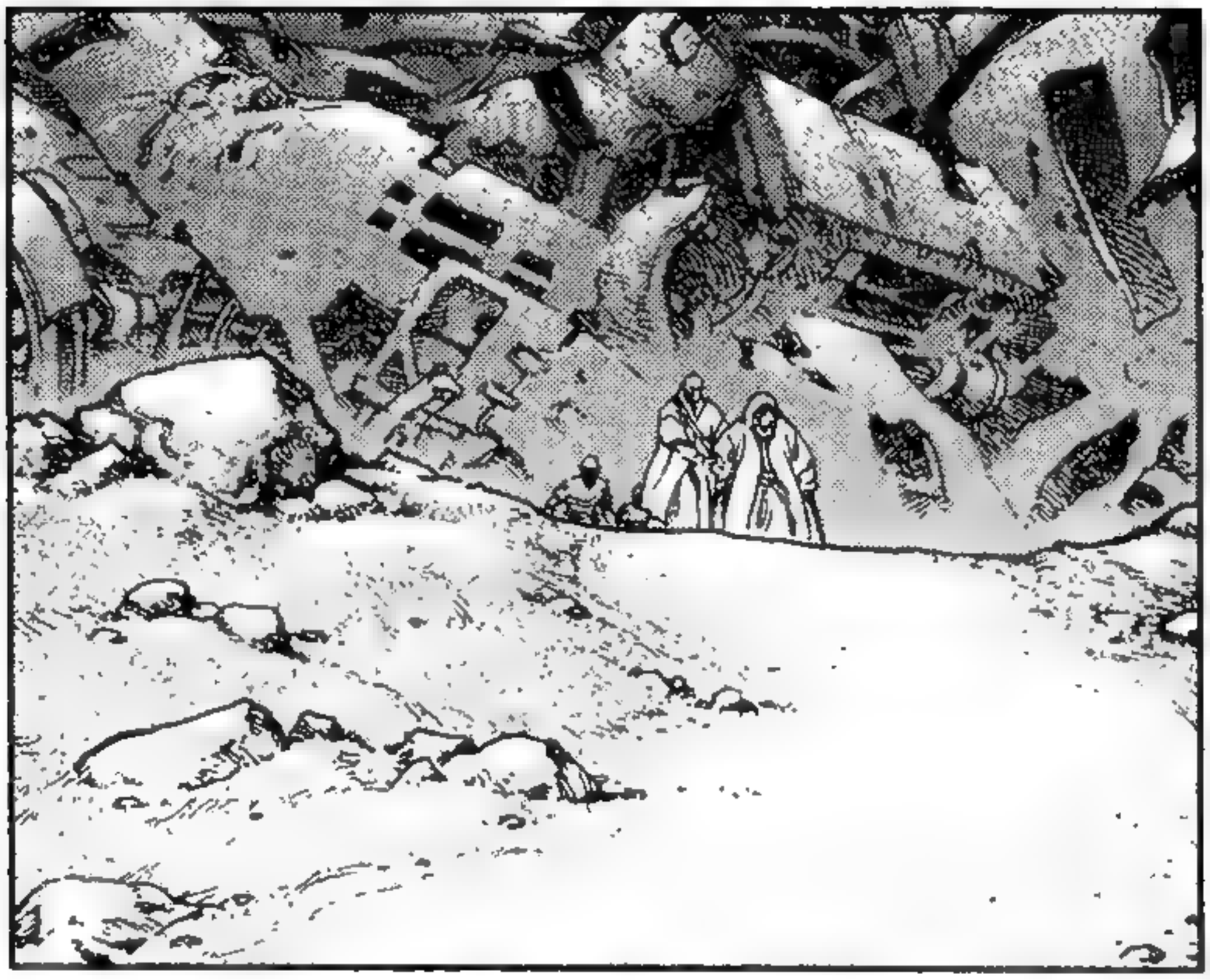
WE'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT TO TOP IT OFF.

SCHLA

PLEASE SPARE ME FROM THAT MISPLACED IRONY!

WOULDN'T THAT BE THE POWER OF THE ***M.E.*** DOCTRINE?

SCHLA



THEY'VE ALREADY ARRIVED.

...

I AM ASSYRE.

I AM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TWELVE MEMBER COMMITTEE OF MOTHER EARTH.

THIS IS FORM.

HE IS MY RIGHT HAND MAN.

I AM HAMED, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE MOTHER EARTH ARMY!

AND THIS IS...

HANS BELGOURD, APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

BUT I AM JUST HERE AS AN OBSERVANT SO THAT I CAN SHARE THIS MOMENT WITH YOU...

I'M GLAD YOU'VE RETURNED!

THE PEACE CONFERENCE WELCOMES YOU BACK.

THANK YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT!

NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN COMMON COURTESY OUT OF THE WAY, WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS MEETING?

BECAUSE YOU ARE PARTICIPATING, MISTER PRESIDENT... I'M CONCLUDING THAT WE'RE HERE AS PART OF THE...

WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF "PEACE CONFERENCE"!?

YOU WIPED OUT A SQUAD FROM OUR ARMY.

IF YOU'D LIKE A SEAT IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE, YOU MUST RELINQUISH YOUR ARMS AND ALLOW AN INSPECTION!

WE GOVERN OURSELVES WITH COMPLETE AUTONOMY.

AND, TO DEFEND THAT SOVER-EIGNTY...

WE ARE READY TO TAKE RADICAL MEASURES AGAINST POSSIBLE ENEMIES!

YOU WOULD DO THE EXACT SAME THING IF YOU WERE IN OUR POSITIONS AND THE SAME GOES FOR EPOCH...

THERE AREN'T ANY CLAIMS WITHOUT SOVEREIGNTY, ISN'T THAT SO?

I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING NOTIFIED YOU AHEAD OF TIME.

UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO DESCENDING, WE HADN'T RESOLVED VARIOUS ISSUES OF FACTS AND TIME.

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "PEACE" AND "LOVE"? PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

YOU FALL FROM THE SKY LIKE A FLY INTO THE MIDDLE OF A SOUP AND TO TOP IT OFF YOU ARROGANTLY LAUNCH YOUR DEMANDS UPON US... YOU'VE GOT SOME BALLS!

IN ANY CASE, THE PEACE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF THE RECENT INCIDENT WITH THE HARATO TEAM!

THE ORGANIZATION OF A REGULAR CONFERENCE IS AN URGENT MATTER FOR US!

AND I'M LETTING YOU KNOW RIGHT NOW...

THERE WILL ***NEVER*** BE MORE THAN ONE SEAT FOR ***M.E.*** IN THE CONFERENCE!

...

BUT IF YOU COOPERATE AND COMPLY WITH OUR POLICIES, I'LL BE ABLE TO PROMISE YOU SOME FAVORS!

DON'T BE SO ARROGANT! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH EFFORT WE MADE IN ORDER TO HOLD THIS PEACE CONFERENCE.

THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO GIVE THE BEST PART OF THE PIE TO THE VULTURES!

TO BE CLEAR, ARE YOU ASKING US TO JOIN WITH YOU?

DON'T MISUN-DERSTAND, COMMANDER...

WE ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO YOUR POLITICAL ENTERPRISE...

BUT...

BUT *WHAT*, MISTER REPRE-SENTATIVE?

WE ARE ALSO WORKING HARD FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EARTH AND THE HUMAN RACE!

I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT MOTHER EARTH WAS CREATED WITH THIS VISION IN MIND...

IDEALISMS HAVE NEVER FILLED A MAN'S STOMACH!!

BANG

EVEN WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE DOCTRINE OF M.E.!

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE USELESSLY PROCRASTI-NATING!!

WE ARE HERE FOR OUR COUNTRY-MEN WHO ARE TROUBLED AND STARVING!

HAMED, SON OF OBMAAR...

!

...

IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY!

THAT'S WHY WE TOO DISREGARDED GREAT DANGER TO COME BACK ON EARTH TO SAVE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM HUNGER AND SUFFERING.

WHEN I LEARNED THAT THE SON OF OBMAAR WAS NOW THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF ***M.E.*** ON EARTH, I CAME WITH ALL HASTE AND WITH A GIFT.

YOU KNOW MY FATHER!?

HE IS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF MOTHER EARTH. THERE ISN'T ANYBODY IN THE COLONY WHO DOESN'T KNOW HIM.

BUT I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU BACK THEN, CORRECT?

...

ANOTHER THING... ABOUT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY YOU'RE DEPLOYING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT HILL...

WHAT!?

GRANTED, OUR LASER CAN'T REACH THAT FAR, BUT...

WE HAVE EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO NEUTRALIZE ANY ATTACK TOWARDS US.

THERE-FORE...

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE'S NO SENSE IN FIGHTING.

GHH...

EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING, BUT...

EARLIER, YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A GIFT, DIDN'T YOU?

YES, THAT IS THE HEART OF THE MATTER!

SHOW THEM, FORM...

!?

GODO GODO

12 ME

IT'S THE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY THAT WE'VE MANAGED TO PRODUCE IN THE COLONY!

THESE ARE... POTATOES?

IT IS THE RESULT OF REPEATED EXPERIMENTS OF CELLULAR FUSION AND GENETIC MANIPULATION IN THE ORBITING SATELLITE, WHERE THE LIMITS OF THE EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT DON'T EXIST.

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE A PLANT WHERE EACH HARVEST IS GUARANTEED, EVEN IN A FROZEN REGION OR A ZONE WITH POOR PRECIPITATIONS!

MOREOVER, IT DOESN'T DEPEND UPON THE QUALITIES OF THE SOIL, AS WOULD OCCUR IN REGIONS OF CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION.

WITH A TEMPERATE CLIMATE, THE GROWTH IS SO RAPID THAT YOU CAN PROCURE UP TO THREE HARVESTS!

THE UNDERGROUND SHOOTS HAVE GREAT NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND, VIA THE PREPARATION OF THE VITAMINS FROM THE LEAVES, YOU CAN EVEN USE THE FLOWERS AS FOOD!

OHHHH...

WITH THIS PLANT, THE PROVISION OF FOOD IS GUARANTEED FOREVER!

MY GOODNESS! THAT'S FANTASTIC!

BROUHAHA BROUHAHA

WE'D NO LONGER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD?

BROUHAHA

BROUHAHA

BLA BLA

BLA BLA

OH MOTHER EARTH, THIS IS THE PROMISED LAND AFTER ALL!

WOUAH BROUHAHA

WE WILL BECOME THE GRAINS OF EARTH, AND WE WILL LIVE FOR ALL ETERNITY!

WAA OOH WAAAAH

UHH... HOLD ON A SECOND...

EVEN IF THE RESULTS OF YOUR RESEARCH ARE POSITIVE, AM I RIGHT TO SAY THAT IT STILL REMAINES HYPOTHETICAL?

IT'S WORKED IN YOUR COLONY, BUT WILL IT WORK ON THE EARTH?

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. THE ONLY WAY WE'LL FIND OUT IS BY TRYING.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED AN AUTONOMOUS TERRITORY THAT IS INDEPENDANT FROM ALL EXTERIOR INTERVENTION!

THE EXPERIMENTS FOCUS ON CORN AND C3 PLANTS CONTAINING THE VITAMINS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. REGARDING LARGE-HARVEST C4 PLANTS, LIKE THE SPECIES OF MILLET,

THEY AREN'T READY TO BE USED AT THE MOMENT AND REQUIRE MORE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH.

AND I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MENTION ONE THING...

WE HAVE NO INTENTION ON MONOPOLIZING OR USING THESE CULTURAL COMMODITIES AS A WAY TO PROFIT AND NEGOTIATE WITH YOU!

WE INTEND TO GIVE THEM ALL AWAY, SAVE FOR THE FOOD AND THE SEEDS THAT WE NEED!

WAHAHA HAHA!! WELL, HOT DAMN!

SO YOU PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD WITH A POTATO! HAHAHA!

DON'T THE BIGGEST RIVERS ALL BEGIN WITH THE SMALLEST OF STREAMS!?

HUMPH! BEFORE BECOMING A RIVER,

THOSE STREAMS HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO DRY UP!

LET'S JUST SAY... IF EVERYTHING YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, I CAN PROMISE YOU YOUR OWN AUTONOMOUS TERRITORY!

IF ALL YOU NEED IS A BARREN WASTELAND, YOU CAN TAKE IT!

FUFU FU...

I'D LOVE TO SEE BATES' REACTION WHEN HE LEARNS ABOUT THIS!

WAHAHA HAHA!!

LOTS OF TALK AND SMALL POTATOES!!

EXCUSE ME! COULD YOU ALLOW US TO TAKE A LOOK AT THESE EXPERI-MENTS?

I'M EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN ALL OF THIS!

YES!

ALTHOUGH WE'RE TALKING ABOUT POTATOES, THE MILITARY THREAT OF ARMS LIKE THE LASER RAY HAVEN'T DISAPPEARED!

...

THE FIRST THING IS TO OPEN THE COLONY TO THE PUBLIC AND CLEAR UP UNNECESSARY MISUNDER-STANDINGS!

HMMM... BUT THERE ARE THINGS I CANNOT SHOW YOU. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COLONY THAT MUST BE PRESERVED FROM EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT.

BUT WE CAN SHOW YOU WHAT WE CALL THE FARM.

WHAT!?

NIHIHI

DO YOU HAVE OXYGEN MASKS OR SOMETHING SIMILAR?

DUE TO THE ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE, YOUR EARS MIGHT START RINGING.

AND BECAUSE THIS WASN'T SOMETHING I HAD PLANNED...

I WOULD LIKE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE VISITING.

WE CAN'T GO WITHOUT GUARDS!

...

BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
BWIN
LETTING THEM COME INSIDE WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN!
WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE THEM A WELCOMING GIFT.
DON'T WORRY...
AT LEAST WE'VE GOT THEM ENGAGED IN THIS.

GOGON GOGON

GOGON GOGON

GOGON GOGON GOGON GOGON GOGON

HMM... IT'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE COLONY I USED TO LIVE IN...

I'M SURE I'VE COME HERE ONCE WHEN THERE WERE STILL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE COLONIES, BUT...

THIS PLACE FEELS DIFFERENT...

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE OBSCURITY...

GOGONGOGON

GOGONGOGON

GOGONGOGON

GOGONGOGON

GOGONGOGON

PAH

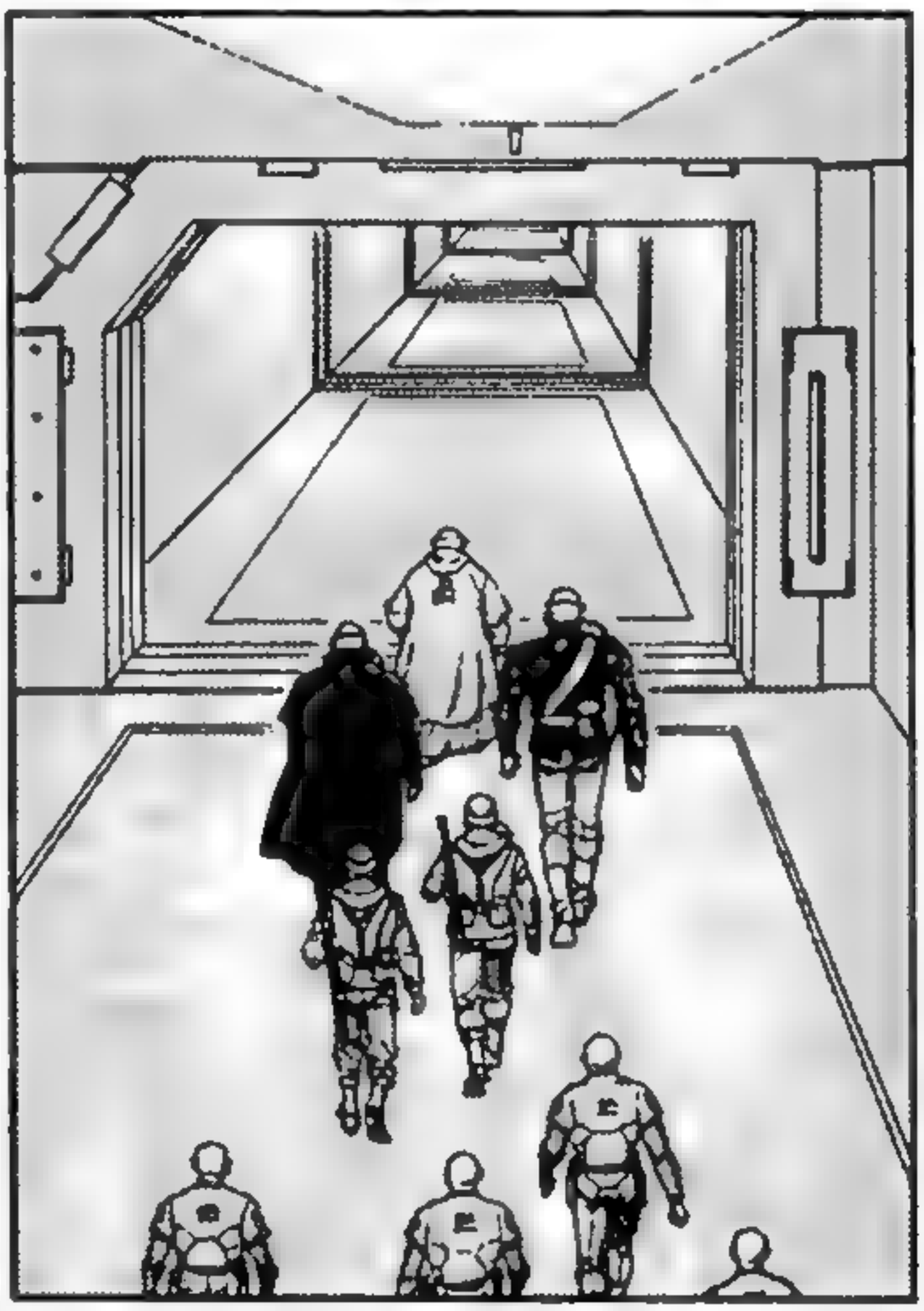
BWWiiiN

12
ME

WELCOME, WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

HOH! THIS AREA IS ALMOST INTACT!

FOLLOW ME.



Farm

12
ME

PASH

12
ME

SCHLAC

SCHLAC

CLANG

Farm

GWAAAAM

SERME

BEHOLD THE FARM!

OH, MY! IT'S WON-DERFUL!

...

INDEED.

ALTHOUGH THIS MEANS THAT WE MIGHT BE EATING POTATOES FOR EACH OF OUR MEALS!

IT'S A STROKE OF LUCK THAT THIS FARM REMAINED INTACT.

IT WASN'T EASY...

IN ITS PLACE, WE WOUND UP DESTROYING THE BULK OF THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION AS A BUFFERING ZONE TO ABSORB THE SHOCK OF THE LANDING.

HOW MANY RESIDENTS CURRENTLY ...

REMAIN IN THIS COLONY?

THE AMOUNT HAS KEPT ON DECREASING.

WE'VE BEEN PREPARING OUR RETURN TO EARTH FOR ABOUT EIGHT YEARS NOW...

AND THAT PERIOD OF TIME WAS VERY...

THE DESCENT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HARD FOR THE CHILDREN!

CERTAIN-LY!

AND THE CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE!

WELL, NOW. THANK YOU FOR VISITING...

NOT TO BE A PAIN, BUT COULD WE TAKE A FEW SAMPLES?

BECAUSE... AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'D LIKE TO... EXAMINE THEM...

FOR THE QUARANTINE, RIGHT?

12 ME

THAT'S CORRECT.

I'LL GET SOME FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY!

LET'S HOPE THAT THESE PLANTS DON'T PROVOKE A NEW DISASTER...

HERE YOU GO!

THANK YOU!

AFTER OUR DISCUSSION TODAY, WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR POSITIONS FOR ADDITIONAL TALKS ANOTHER DAY.

12/ME

12/ME

NEXT TIME, WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU MAY COME TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN BYRON!

THANK YOU, PRESIDENT HANS.

BAGOOONG

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE!?

TO THE CONTROL ROOM!

RIGHT AWAY!

DA DA DA DA

WHAT'S GOING ON?

...

?!

NO!

I HAVEN'T GIVEN ANY ORDERS!!

REGARDLESS, I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

CLIC

W-WAIT! IS THIS ELEVATOR SECURE!?

BWWW

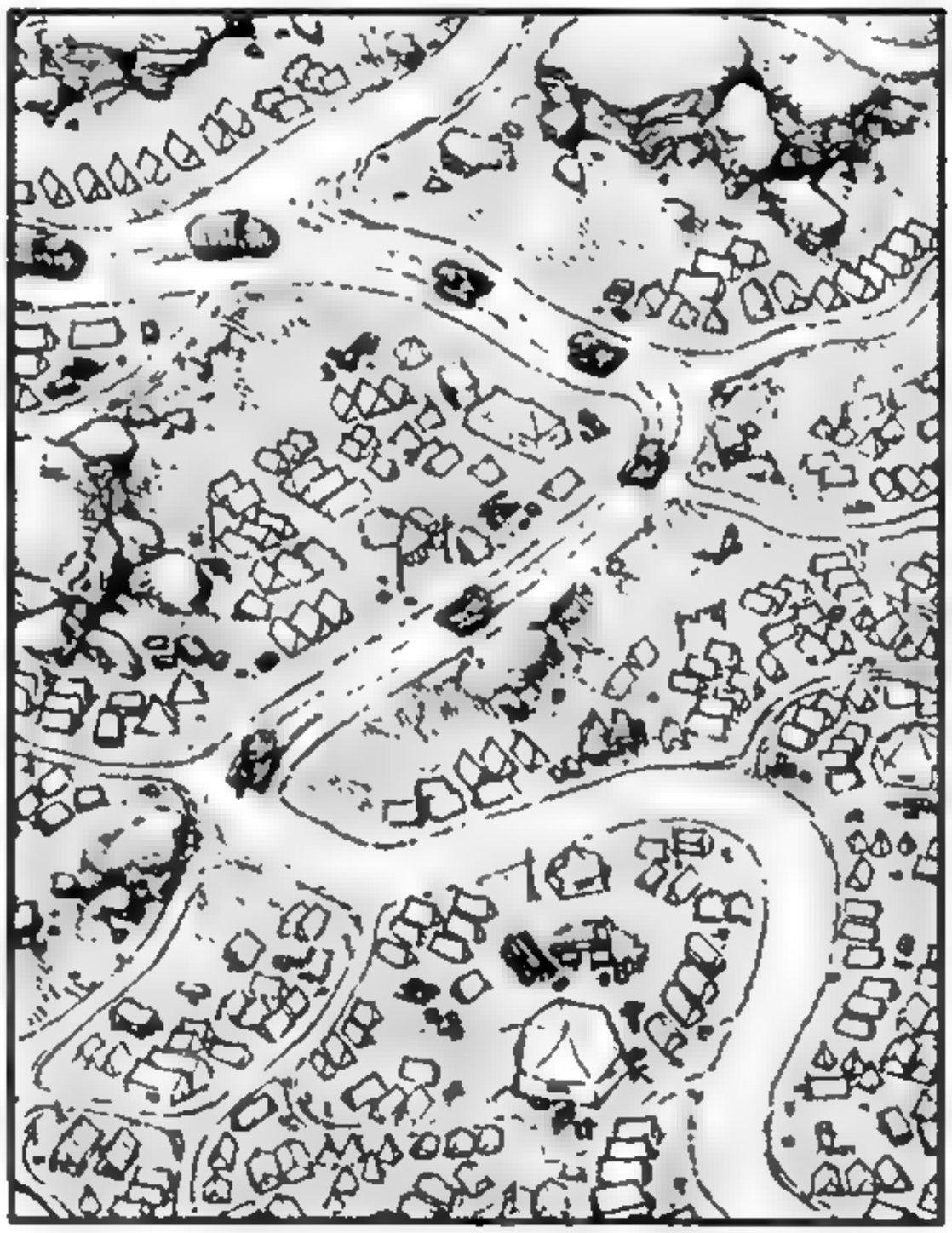
CLING!

GOGON GOGON

...

THAT NOISE SOUNDED LIKE...

FLAP



!

BR

RR

RR

RR

RR

WHAT'S THE ARMY DOING HERE!?

BAGOOONG

!

MY GOD!

BOOM

IS THIS THE PLACE, LIEUTENANT OMAR?

YEAH, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

EVERYTHING THAT YOU SEE OVER THERE ARE ROWS OF COFFINS!

!

BANG BANG

BANG

LOOK!

DD
GD
NN

IT'S A CORPSE!

!!

AND IT ISN'T AN ORDINARY CORPSE!

HURRY!

IT'S THAT WAY AT THE END!

PA PA PA

HMM... THEY PLUGGED IT HASTILY.

WHY IS HIS STOMACH ALL SWOLLEN UP LIKE THAT!?

AND WHAT ARE THOSE THORNS GROWING FROM HIS BODY!?

GIVE ME THE EXPLOSIVES!

BWIN BWIN BWIN

BWIN BWIN BWIN

HUH?

BROUHAHA BROUHAHA

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED!?

WHAAAM

AHHH!!

BADUM

I AM

BOOM

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, WITHDRAW!

OPERATION COMPLETE!

SECURE THE RETREAT!

SSHHHHHH

DA DA DA

?!

W-WHOA!! WHAT ARE THESE THINGS!?

TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-TA

BZIM

BZIM

TARATATA TARATATA

BZIM

WIZ

TSING

BING

LET'S GO!

RUN TO THE ELEVATOR AS FAST AS YOU CAN!!

THEY'RE SURVEIL-LANCE ROBOTS!

WE'VE BEEN FOUND!

BONG

PSHHH

SLAP

!

PASH

BKOOM

AGAIN...

HAS WAR STARTED OR SOMETHING!?

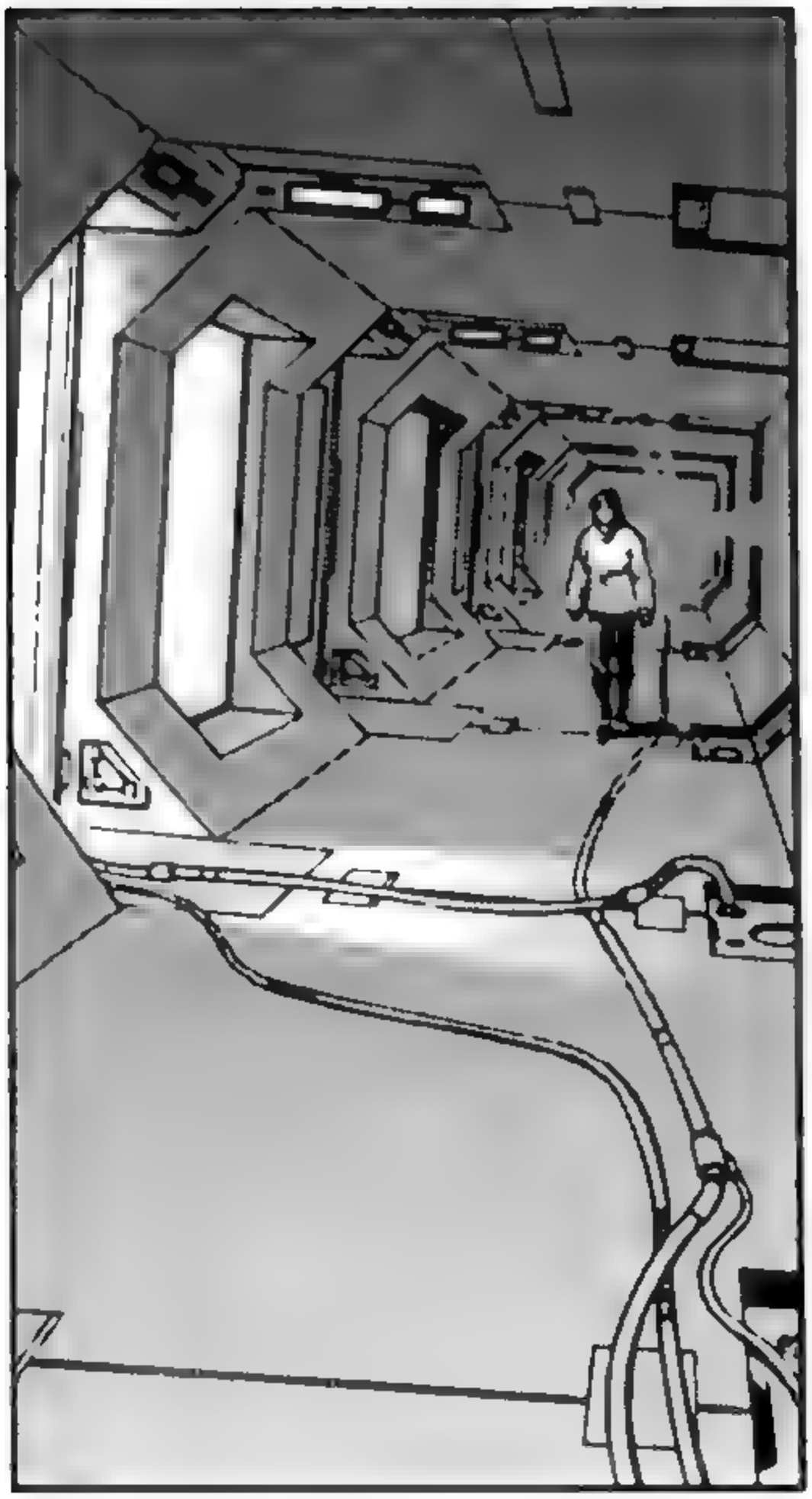
FLAP

!

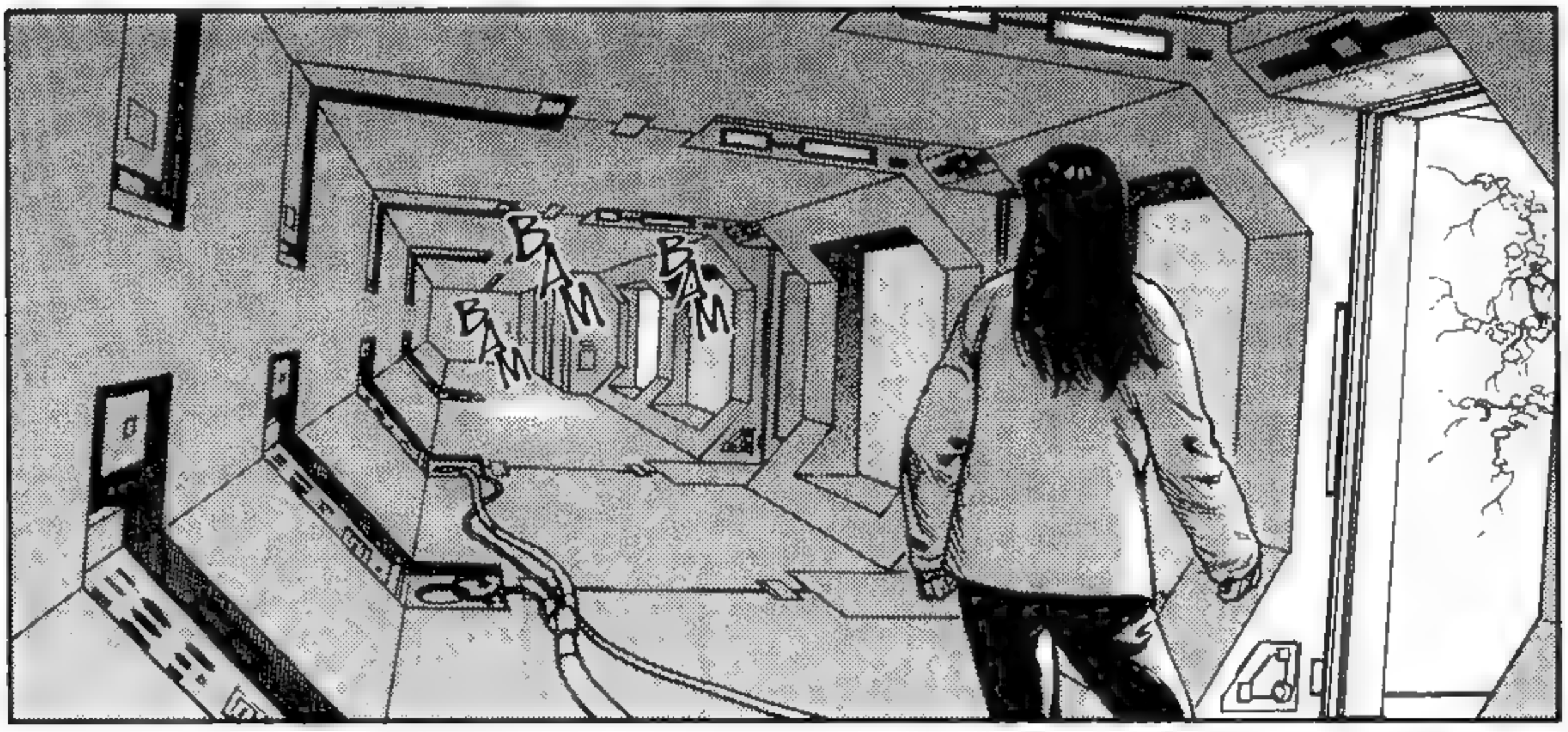
EXCUSE ME!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING...

...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP



WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?
BAM
BAM
BAM


BAM
BAM
BAM

BAM BAM

BAM BAM

!

TSUE!?

S-SARAH!

HELP ME! GET ME OUTTA HERE!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

HOW DID YOU GET INSIDE!?

HUH? WHAT?

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!!

BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, GET ME OUTTA HERE!

THE DOOR'S ON THE RIGHT!

THERE'S A CURVED DOOR, RIGHT!?

IT'S THAT ONE!

OPEN

CLAC

SLAM

BWIN

PHEW...

YOU SAVED ME, SARAH!

NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I CALLED, NOBODY WOULD COME. WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!

AND TO TOP IT OFF, THERE WASN'T EVEN A TOILET!

YOU HEARD THE EXPLOSION, RIGHT?

THE ARMY'S COMING!

WHOA, HOLD ON A SECOND ...

I'M HAVING A TOUGH TIME BREATHING!

FHH

HAA

I THINK THEY WERE IN HERE...

TAPPP

TAPPP

AHA! THERE THEY ARE!

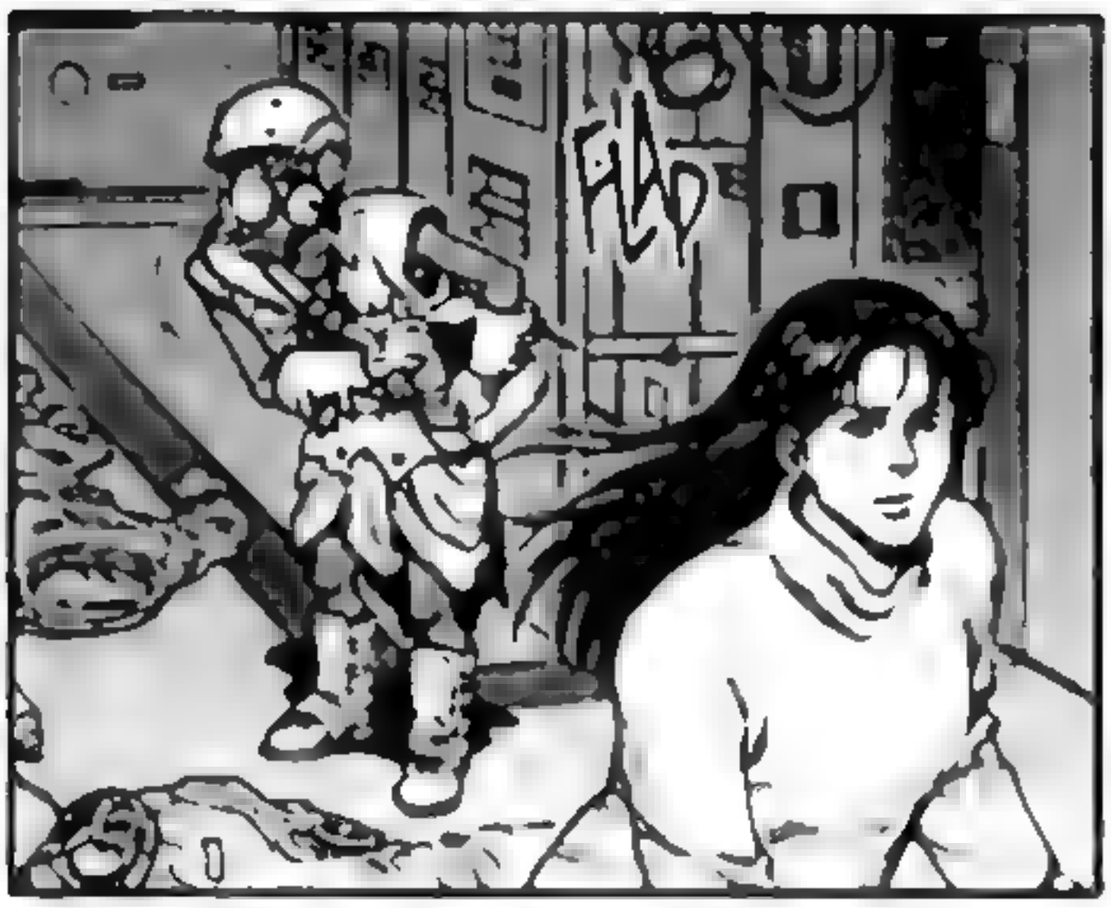
YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS!

C'MON! PUT ONE ON AND LET'S SCRAM!

...

TAC

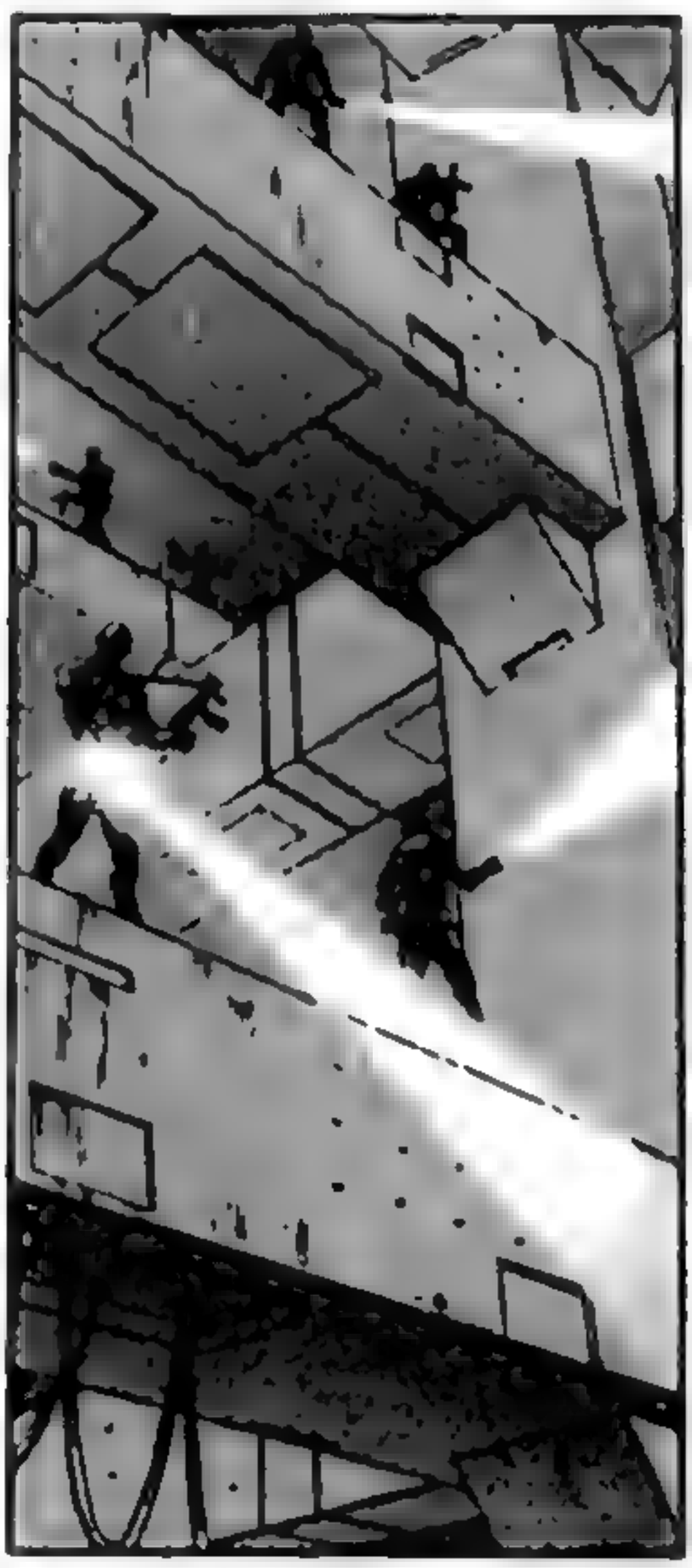
SHAA



HEY, SARAH!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

I HAVE TO TALK TO BARD ABOUT THIS!

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ONE OF THESE MASKS!?
SARAH!!



FLAP

THERE THEY ARE!

TA RA TA TA TA TA TA TA

TA RA TA

TA RA TA

SHHHHH

SHHH

WHAT ARE THESE CORPSES!?

...

SHHHH

DA GA DAM

COMMAND-ER HAMED!

?!

FLAP

IDENTIFY YOURSELF.

LIEUTENANT TOMARU, CAPTAIN OF THE INVESTIGATION SQUAD!

TCHAC

SO YOU'RE ALIVE!?

AND THAT EXPLOSION FROM EARLIER? WAS IT YOUR WORK?

DUE TO THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, I ACTED ACCORD-ING TO MY DISCRETION!

YOU LITTLE SHIT!! YOU WILL BE COURT-MARTIALED!

SOMEBODY ARREST AND CONFINE HIM!

HAVE YOU EXAMINED THE CORPSES, COMMANDER?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT!?

WHAT ARE THOSE BODIES!?

WE'RE IN THE PRESENT OF A SERIOUS EPIDEMIC ON BORD OF THE COLONY!

THEY'VE FROZEN COUNTLESS SIMILAR CORPSES IN THE SHIP'S INTERIOR. I BELIEVE THAT RELEASING THE COLONY WOULD POSE A GRAVE DANGER.

WHAT!?

SHHH

WAA WAA WAA

YOU IDIOTS!

WHAT WILL WE DO IF IT TRANSMITS THROUGH THE AIR!?

TADAM

WAIT, COM-MANDER HAMED.

WE HAVE NO PROOF OF ANYTHING HE'S SAID! THERE MUST CERTAINLY BE AN...

B-BURN THEM!

DA DA DA

AH!!

BWiiiiii

SHAK

FWIP

!?

WAAAH! RUN AWAY!

OH!!

IT'S A LASER-RAY WEAPON!

WHAT'S THAT!?

COM-MANDER HAMED IS IN DANGER!

FWTCH

WAAAH! IT'S COMIIING!

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

WAHHH!!

SEND A JEEP OUT TO RESCUE HIM!!

ONCE WE'VE RETRIEVED AND SECURED COMMANDER HAMED, WE'LL START OUR ATTACK!!

ALL MEN ON STANDBY AND READY TO FIRE!

VROOM

TA TA TA TA TA TA

TA TA TA TA

RING RING RING RING RING

BRRR

WAHHHH!!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

I DON'T GIVE A FUCK IF YOU HAVE TO RUN 'EM OVER, JUST HURRY!!

M

YEP

SKRUUU

BAONG

WAAHH!

HEY! OUT OF THE WAY!

BANG BANG

GET OUTTA HERE!!

TARATATA

THAT'S ENOUGH! CEASE FIRE!

GOODNESS GRIEF, HAMED! STOP THEM!!

BURN THE CORPSES!!

LAUNCH A FULL SCALE ATTACK AND DESTROY EVERYTHING!!

TARATATA

!

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

ARE WE UNDER ATTACK OR ARE WE THE ONES AT-TACKING!?

TARATATA

RING RING RING RING RING RING RING RING

TROOPS, SPREAD OUT!!

USE THE CIVILIAN TENTS AS SHIELDS AND CONTINUE WITH THE WARNING SHOTS!!

MESSAGE TO ALL TROOPS ON STANDBY...

ATTACK!!

YES, SIR!

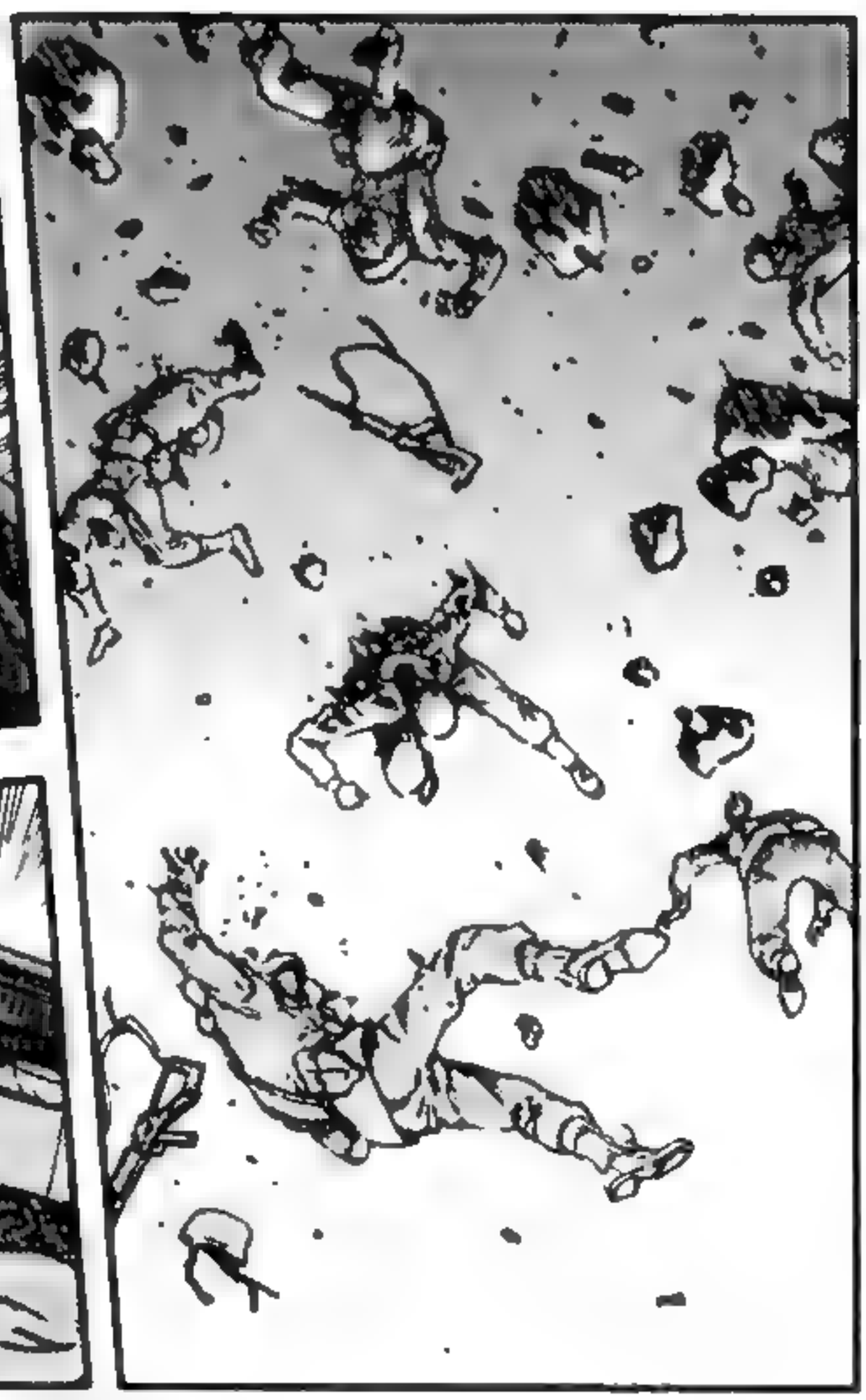
HERE WE GO!

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

IS THE COMMAND-ER IN A SECURE LOCATION NOW!?

RE-SPOND!

ZBAAOUUUUUM



?!

W-
WHAT
WAS
THAT!?

BAOUUUM

THEY STILL HAVEN'T REPORTED REGARDING THE COMMANDER'S SAFETY, BUT...

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ANYMORE!

LAUNCH THE MISSILES!!

POW

POW

POW POW

POW POW POW POW POW POW POW

MAKE THEM STOP THE ATTACK AT ONCE, HAMED!

GIVE ME A MASK! A MASK!!

OR WE MIGHT GET INFECTED!

CRAC

VRAAOUM

HAMED!! LISTEN TO ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!!

MOVE IT! OUT OF THE WAY!

BRROUUUM

WAHH!

VLAM

FLOOR IT! THE MIS-SILES ARE COMING!

CLING

CLING

BWWIIIII

SHAK

D-SH-D

FWTCH

THEY'RE ALREADY IN RANGE!

FIRE!

12
ME

ME

ME

KIKAA

KIKAA

KIKAA

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BAOOM

WAHH!

BAOOM!

GYAAAH!

SHIT!!

SUPPORT THE MISSILES WITH MACHINE GUNS AND THE AVAILABLE WEAPONS!

BKOOM

BAOUUUM

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, HAMED!

AND ORDER THEM TO STOP THIS DAMNED ATTACK!!

KIKAA

BKOOM

BKOOM

BKOOM

!!

BADABOUM

POW

POW

KI KA A

BKOM

KA A

BKOM

BKOM

BKOOM

BKOOM

BKOOM

BKOOM

BKOOM

BAOOM

AHHH!!

!

AKK

AKK

BOOM

BOOM

TARATATATA

SHHHH

!!

BANG

POW

POW

POW

POW

POW

BKOOM

BKOOM

BKOOM

ESHHHHH

AAA

WAAHH!!

BAM

W-WHY ARE THEY ATTACKING THE COLONY!?

WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE!?

I DON'T KNOW!

WE HAVE TO FIND BARD!!

WHAM

WHAM

FALLING

!!

BAG

ONG

WAHHH!!

ENCE AND LOVE

TSUE'S STORE
TOWN OF THE

wobble

IDIOTS!

WHERE IN THE HELL DID THEY LEARN TO AIM!?

A TELE-GRAPH!

ISN'T THERE A TELE-GRAPH!?

!

GHHH...

HEY!!

COME ON, SHOW SOME SPIRIT!

SHLAB

!

TCHAC

SHIT!!

WATCH OUT, HIT THE DIRT!!

HUH?

BAM

BAM

TAP
TAP
TAP

?!

OH... YOU'RE... YOU'RE FROM THE SURFACE, AREN'T YOU?

DOES THAT MEAN THE GATES...

HAVE THEY OPENED THE GATES!?

THE GATES?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT'S BECOME OF THE EARTH? THE SURFACE...

WHAT'S THE TEM-PERATURE LIKE!?

HOW ABOUT THE CLIMAT!?

WHAM

GGWAAAAM

!

BRR

BRR

BRR

OHHH! THAT'S THE SOUND OF THE GATES OPENING!

OF COURSE, YOU'RE RIGHT!!

COME ON! LET'S GO AND SET FOOT ON THE EARTH!

LET'S GO!!

WE WILL BECOME THE GRAINS OF EARTH, AND WE WILL LIVE FOREVER!

DON'T GO!

!

LISTEN TO ME!! IT ISN'T THE TIME YET!

WHAT YOU'RE HEARING IS AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK BY A TERRESTRIAL ARMY, BUT IT WILL CEASE ONCE THE MISUNDERSTANDING IS CLEARED UP!

FOR SECURITY MEASURES, I ASK OF YOU TO PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS!

BARD!!

?!

WAIT, HOLD ON A SEC...

THAT'S YOUR HUSBAND!?

THE COMMITTEE OF TWELVE ASK US TO WAIT WITHOUT GIVING ANY EXPLANATION!

WHEN THE HELL WILL WE BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE!?

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH OUR COMRADES WHO DIED IN THE LANDING!?

12/ME

IF WE LEAVE THEM LIKE THIS, THEY'LL START TO GERMINATE!

PLEASE! LET US BURY THEM ON EARTH!

ALSO, SOME OF MY FRIENDS DIED YESTERDAY AND THE COMMITTEE HASN'T DONE A THING!

YOU GOT THE REPORT, DIDN'T YOU!?

REST ASSURED, WE'RE UP TO SPEED WITH EVERYTHING. THE TALKS WITH THE PEACE CONFERENCE WENT VERY WELL, BUT...

AN UNFORE-SEEN EVENT HAPPENED. I ASK YOU TO BE A LITTLE BIT MORE PATIENT!

FSHHHHHHHHHH

BOOM

WAAHHH!

GWAAAAM

!

OHHH!

A BREEZE FULL OF DENSE OXYGEN IS COMING IN!

...

LET'S GO, EVERYONE!

FLAD

WAIT! THE OXYGEN IS DANGEROUS FOR US!

OUR BODIES HAVE YET TO ACCLIMATE TO IT!

12 ME

DON'T RUSH YOURSELVES!

BARD, WHAT IS THAT RUMBLING NOISE?

YOU SAID THAT THE ARMY IS ATTACKING, BUT WHY?

!

A UNIT DETACHED FROM THE ARMY BROKE INTO THE COLONY AND BLEW UP THE STOREHOUSE FOR OUR CORPSES.

IT HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS...

AND THE ***M.E.*** COMMANDER CLAIMED HE HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THIS OPERATION, SO IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ORCHESTRATED BY ANOTHER UNIT...

YEAH! I SAW 'EM EARLIER!

SOME WEIRD DUDES WERE ROAMIN' ABOUT!

HUH?

HOW DID YOU GET OUT!?

I LET HIM OUT...

HE'S GIVEN ME A BIG HAND IN MY JOURNEY...

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE COLONY?

YER GONNA SHOOT 'EM ALL DOWN WITH THAT LASER, RIGHT?

YEAH, I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT OUR FATES SEEMED TO HAVE CROSSED!

I HAVE NO IDEA.

THE ENERGY FOR THE LASER CANNON HAS A LIMIT

AND THE SHIELD OF THE EXTERIOR WALL WON'T SAVE US EITHER.

WHAT!?

THEN WE BETTER GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE THEN!!

BARD, HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN THE COLONY?

...

SOME-WHERE BETWEEN 350 TO 400 PEOPLE.

!

WAIT, HOLD ON... THAT'S BASICALLY NOBODY!

WHY ARE THERE SO FEW PEOPLE IN SUCH A HUGE COLONY!?

AND ON TOP OF THAT, THEY ALL LOOK... LIFELESS AND WEAK, LIKE THE PEOPLE WE JUST SAW.

...

ARE THEY SICK?

IT'S NOT AN EPIDEMIC OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

NO!

BARD... TELL ME THE TRUTH.

IT'S OUR LIFESTYLE.

BECAUSE OF THE NUMEROUS CIVIL WARS, WE HAD TO MODIFY THE ATMOSPHERE REPEATEDLY IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

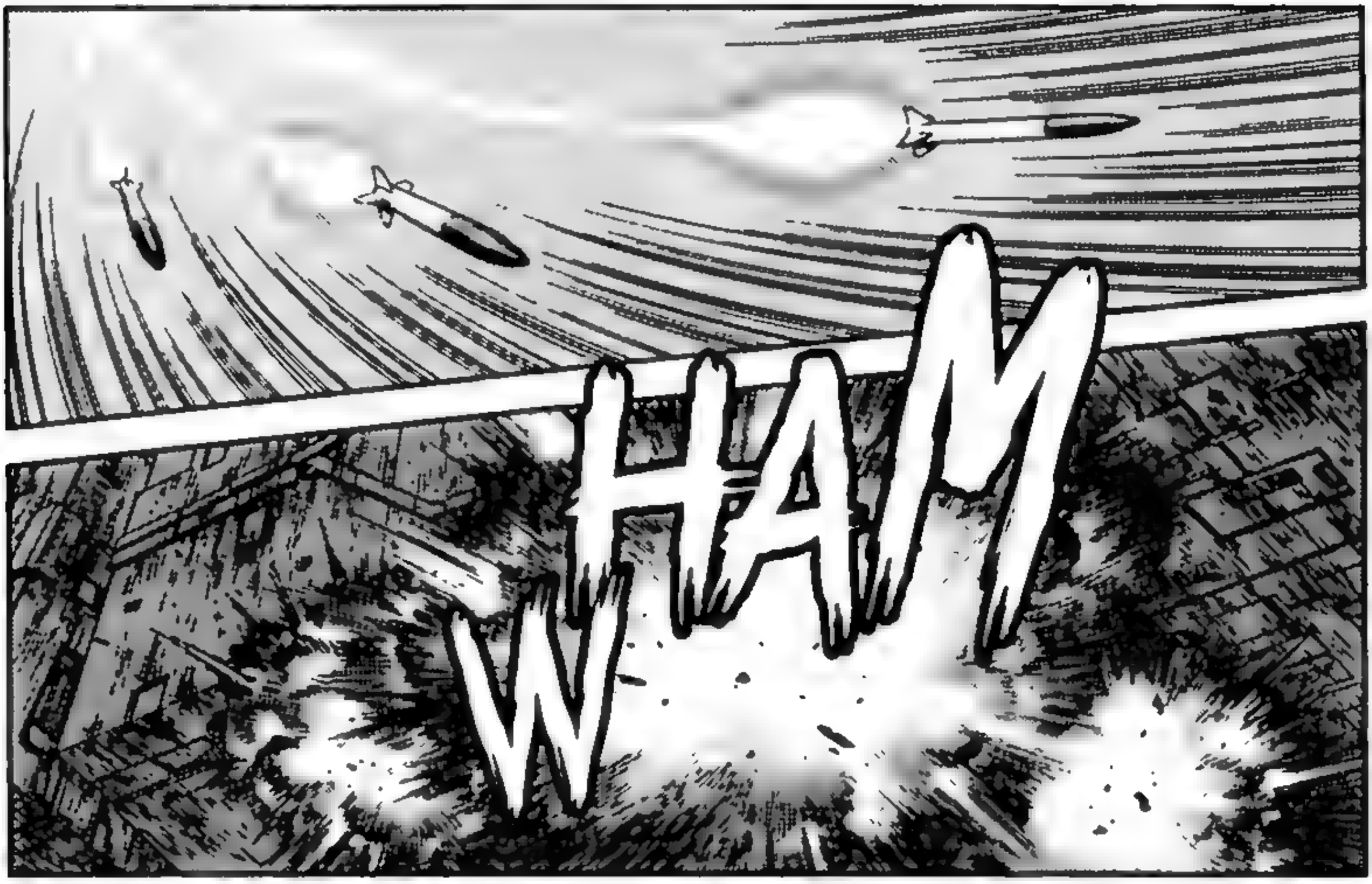
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS NEW CLIMATE PROGRESSIVELY SUCKS THE ENERGY OUT OF US.

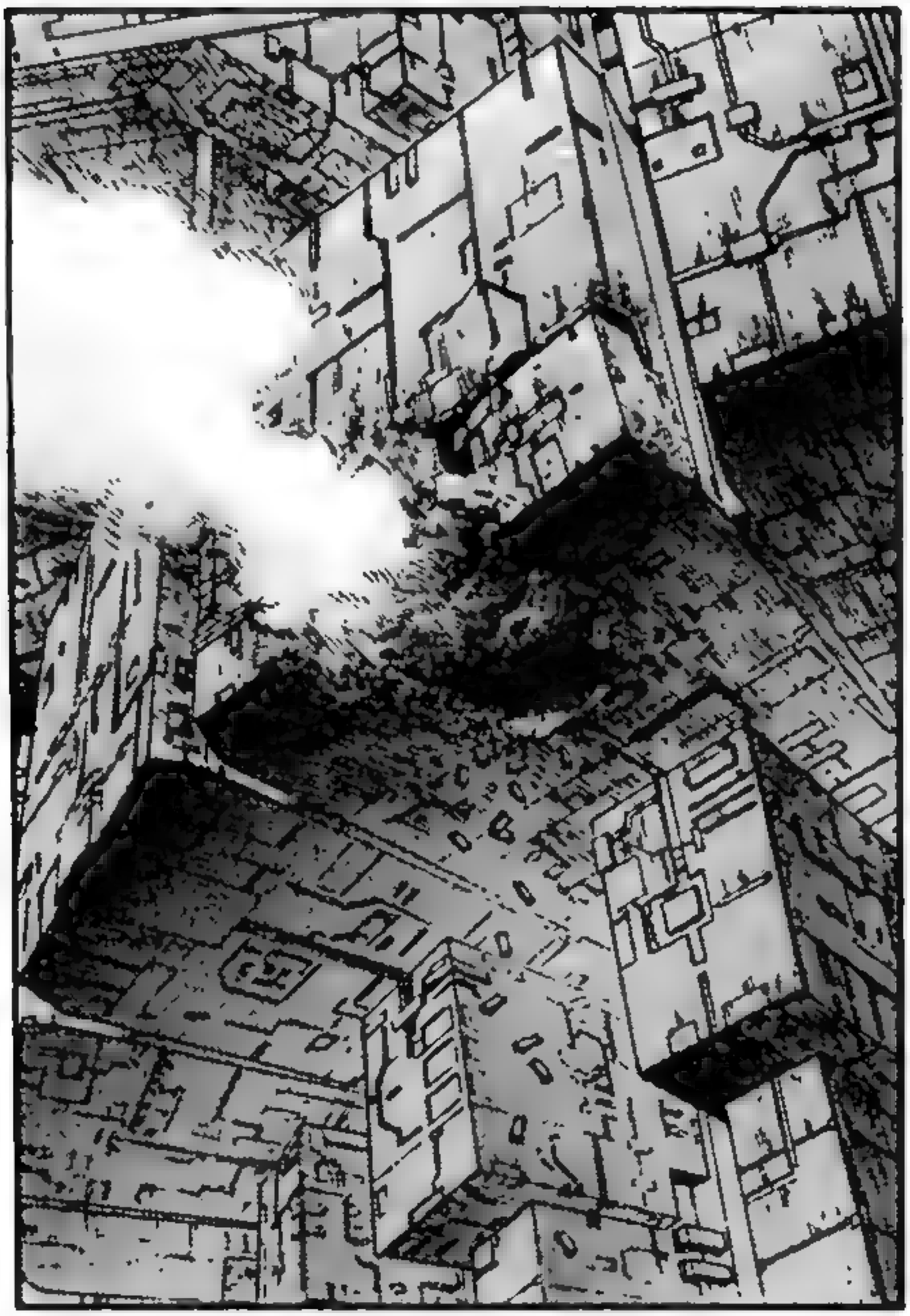
WHAM

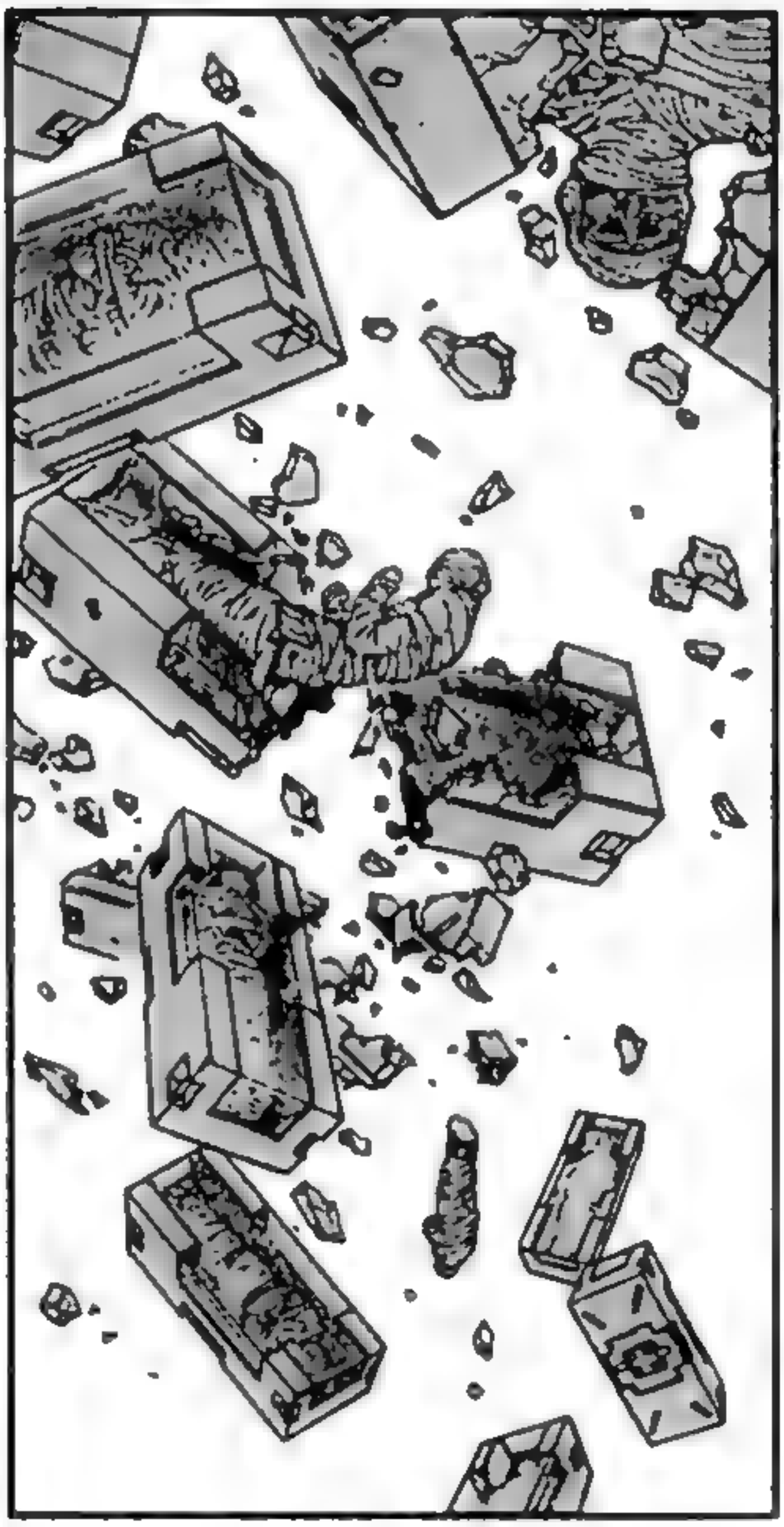
BOOM

GWAAAAMS

WAAHH!!


WHAM





EVENTU-
ALLY,

WE WEREN'T ABLE TO HAVE ANY MORE CHILDREN.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND

WHAT THAT MEANS?

Cultivation Room

WE GAVE UP ON THE EARTH SO THAT WE COULD LIVE IN THE COLONY,

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WE SACRIFICED OUR FUTURE.

...

ESHHHS

CREATING A LINEAGE

IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE EITHER!

!!

EIYO! THE HELL IS ALL OF THIS?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING A STRONG AND LOYAL SPIRIT IF WE, THE TRUE MOTHER EARTH...

ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE OUR GENE POOL IN THE FLOW OF HUMAN LIFE!?

BARD...

NOTHING IS STOPING YOU FROM REGISTERING *M.E.*'S GUIDELINE.

AND BESIDES...

SPIRIT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH BLOOD.

I KNOW...

I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL, BUT...

WE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THIS DESTINY OF OURS UNLESS WE HAD SOME KIND OF HOPE!

BEING CONTENT TO JUST WAIT FOR DEATH IN THE SATELLITE'S ORBIT...

WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH TOO CRUEL.

WHOA!

TH- THEY'RE... CORPSES!

THOSE THINGS, THEY'RE ...

GROWING FROM THE HUMAN BODIES, AIN'T THEY!?

WE WANT TO TRANSMIT A PART OF US TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY THROUGH THE FORM OF A PLANT...

IT'LL COVER THE EARTH WITH A NEW, GREEN LAYER...

...

WWWiiii

KKKAAA

WHAM

BLOOM

BLOOM

WHEEEE

BOOM

AHHH!!

FWOOF

TH-THEY'VE ...

HIT THE CENTRAL JUNCTION CABLE!

I DON'T KNOW THE SEVERITY OF THE DAMAGES, BUT THE SHORT CIRCUIT IS PROVOKING THE OPENING OF CERTAIN PARTITIONS!!

WHAT!?

12 ME

WE'RE STILL NOT READY! FAR FROM IT!!

WHICH SECTIONS ARE BEING AFFECTED?

DAMAGES

46 49 50 45 42 47 41 43 48 38 44 37 39 40 34 35 36 33 32 28 Emergency Discharge Circuit ACTIVE 26 25 22

NUMBERS 39 AND 40!

WARN THE RESIDENTS IMMEDI-ATELY!

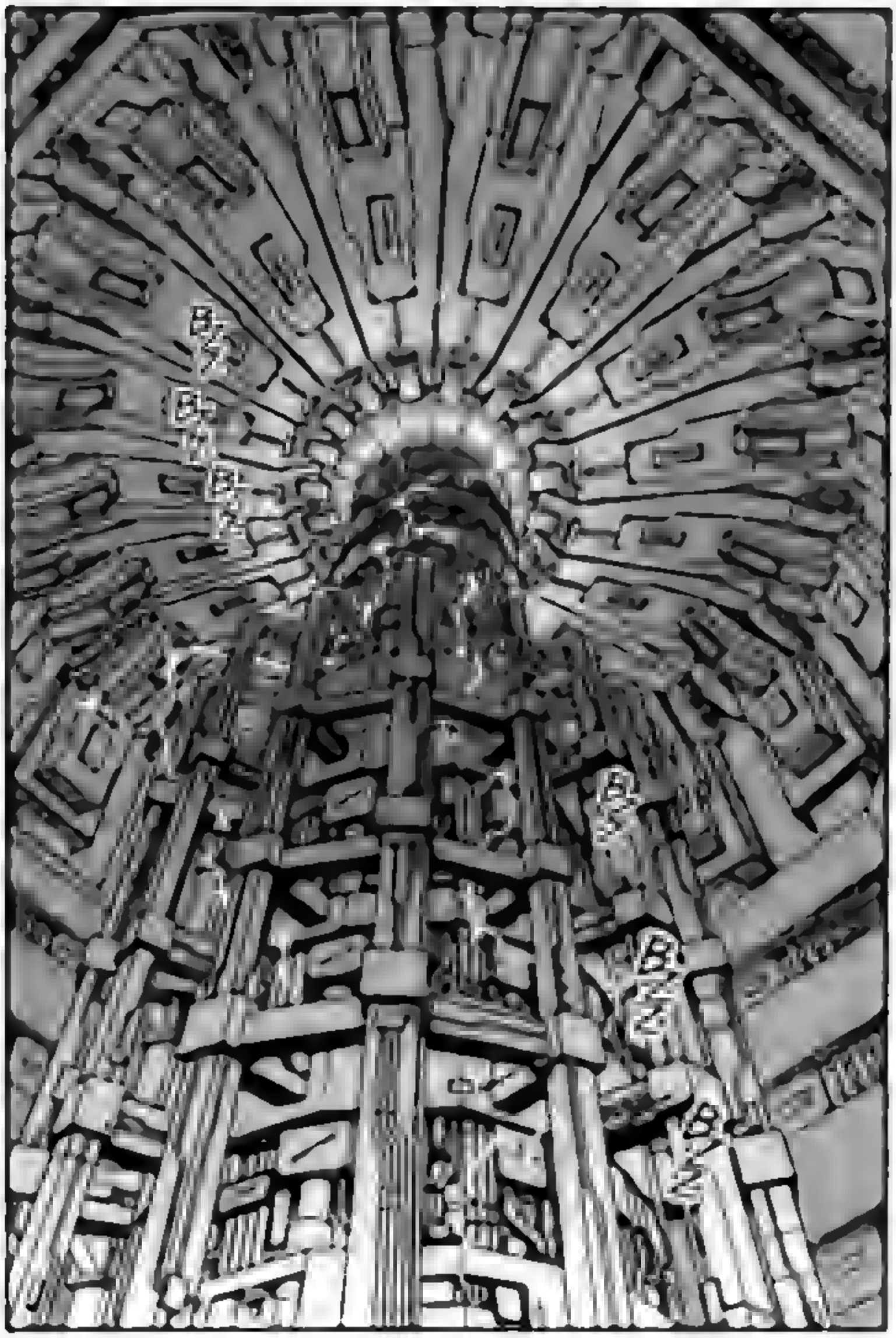
INSTRUCT THEM TO HOLD ON TO THE WALLS SO THAT THEY CAN BRACE FOR IMPACT!!

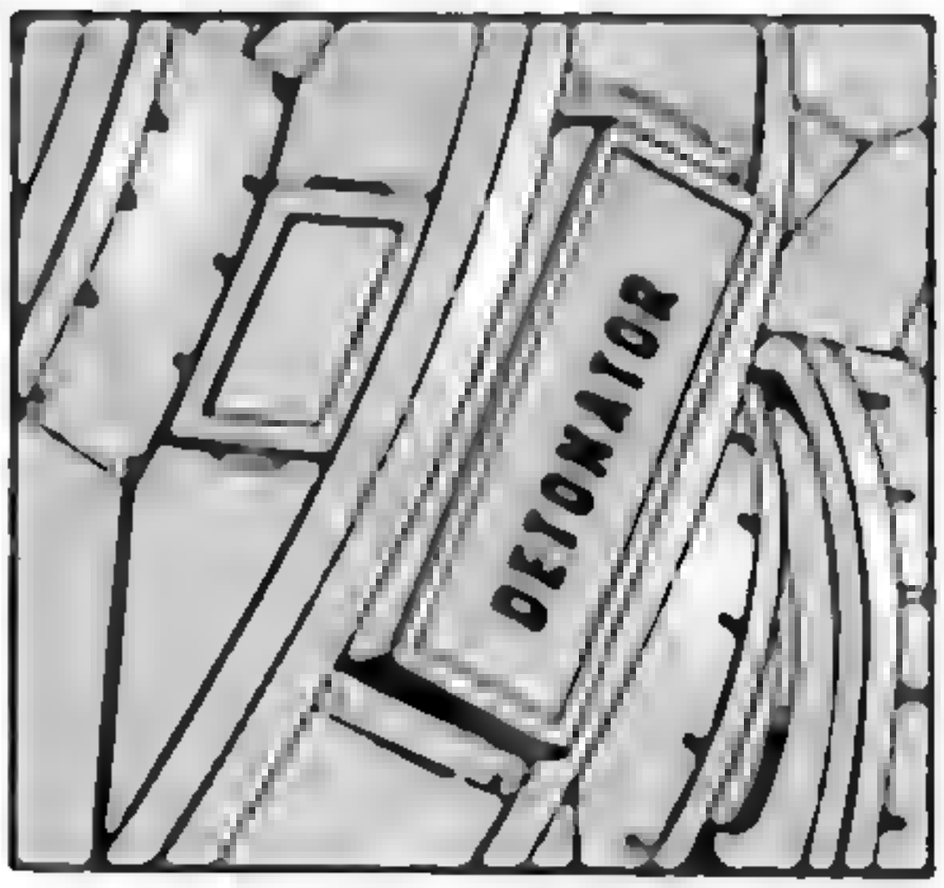
12/ME

WILL WE HAVE TIME!?

12/ME

WE'RE TOO LATE. IT'S ALREADY STARTED!

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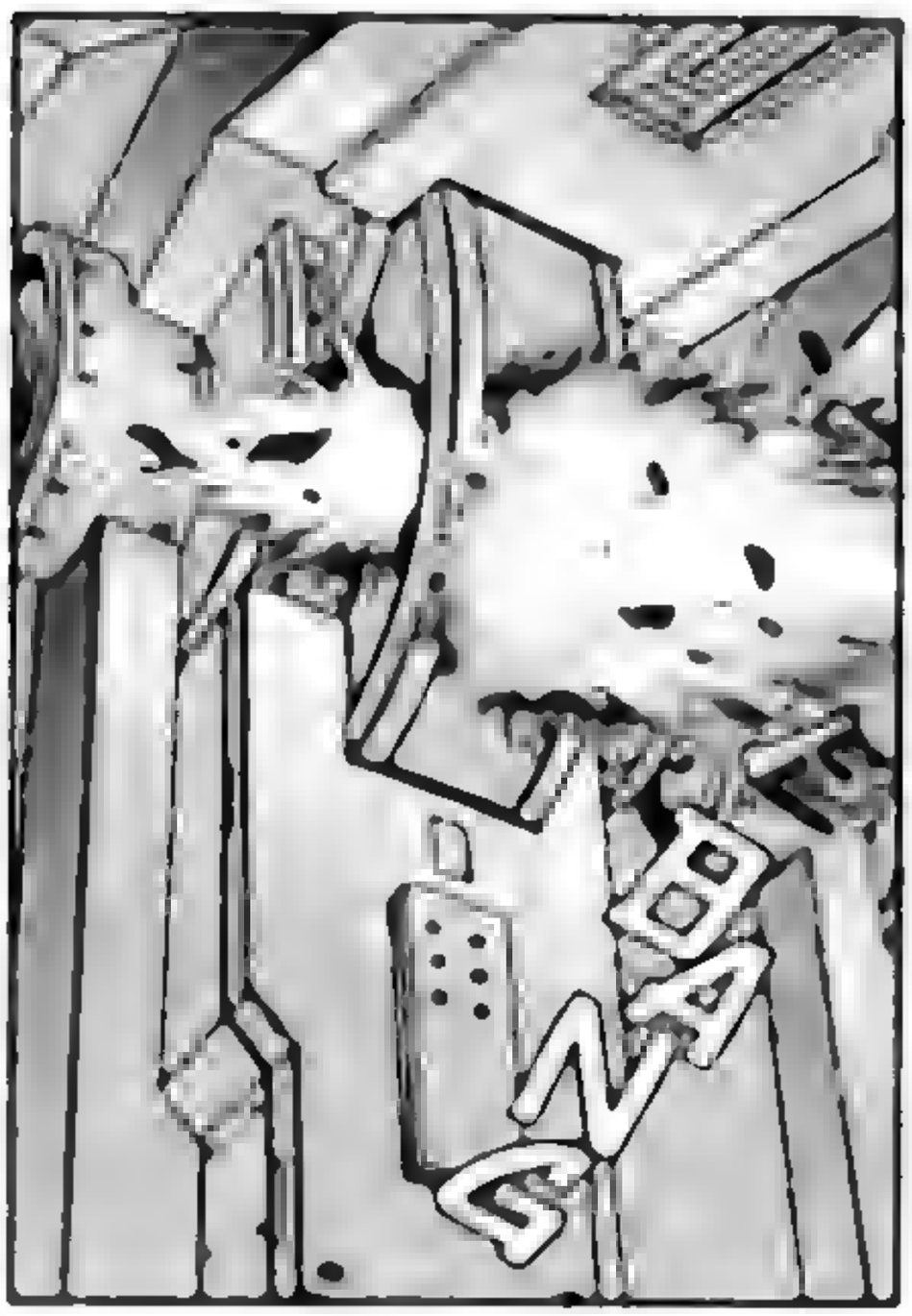
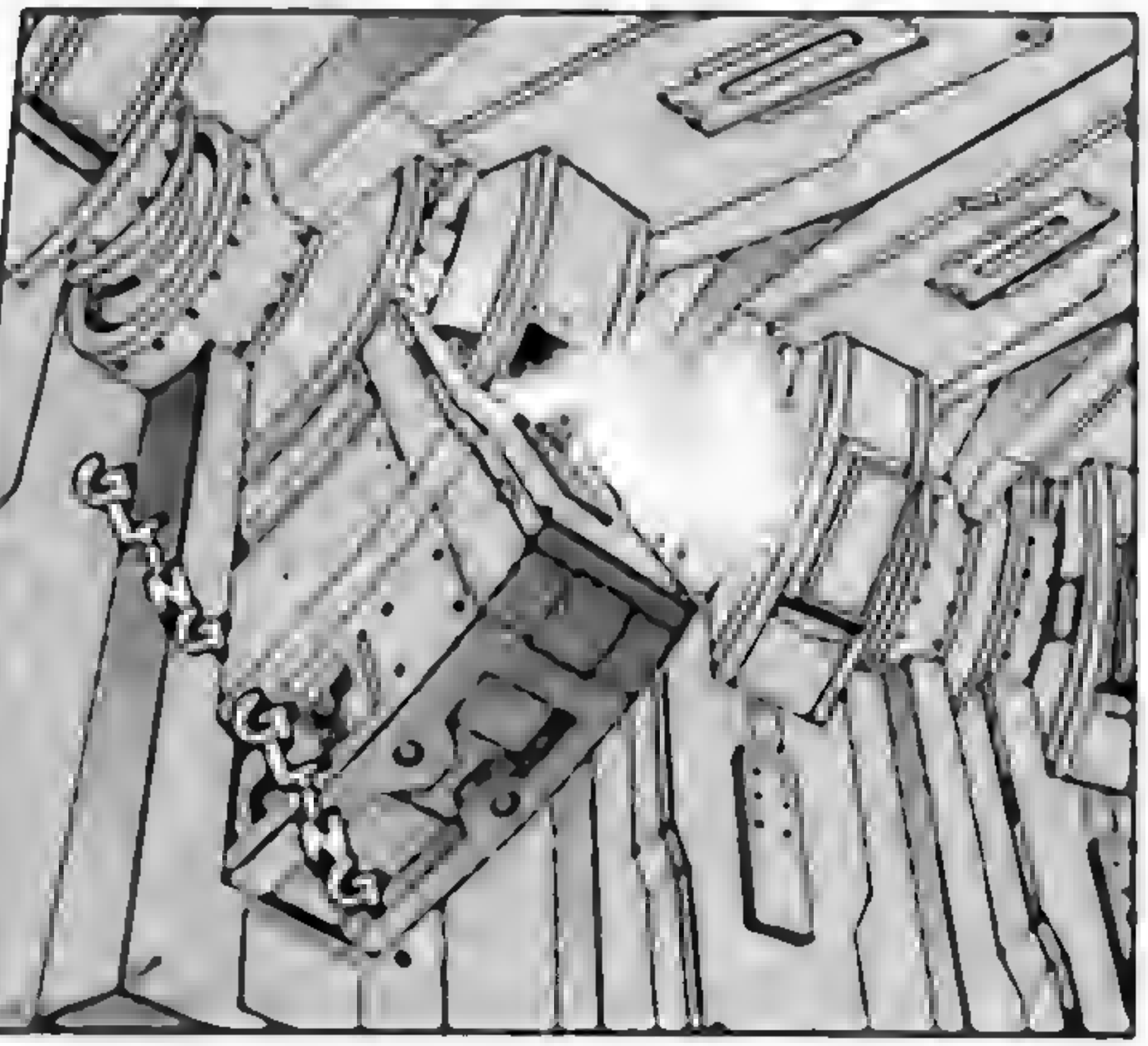




GAKkiiiiNN

ACTIVE

EWAAAAA

?!

AA

AM

GOONG

GRRWAAAM

WAHH!!

BARD!!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

THE GATES ARE OPENING!

GRRWAAAM

GRRWAHAM

THE COLONY

IS BREAKING APART!?

GRRWAAAM

GWAAAM

WAHH!!

AHHH!

THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION! WE HAVE TO OPEN THE RING!

B-BUT, IF WE DO THAT...!

IT WILL BE EASIER TO SUSTAIN ITS EQUI-LIBRIUM IF WE OPEN THEM ALL!

IF WE DON'T START NOW AND THE VESSEL STARTS LEANING, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN THE RING!

!!

M

AH

GRRWHH

12/ME

GRRWAA AAA M

12/ME

SCHLING

PSSHHH

12
ME

...

GASH

MAY GOD BE ON OUR SIDE!

NOW WE OF MOTHER EARTH MUST BELIEVE IN THE EARTH...

LET'S RETURN TO OUR ROOTS!!

GLING

GLING

GLING

GLING

GLING

GLING

PA

21 22 23 24

JAMMED

ACTIVE

JAMMED

25 26 27 28

JAMMED

PA

GLING

HURRY UP WITH THE VALVES!!

GLING

BZZ

BZZ

BZZ

BAZG

BAZG

BAZG

BAZG

GAK

GRRWARRRR

THEM

GAKK!

NO

GAKK!

NO

BAG

GONE

WAHHH!!

GRRWAAAAM

HYAHH!

WHH

M

GRRWAAAA

BAAARD!

YOU STILL HAVE TIME!

RWAR

MAA

JUMP!!

I'M SORRY, SARAH!

I HAVE TO LEAD THE RESIDENTS TO SAFETY FIRST!

BARD!

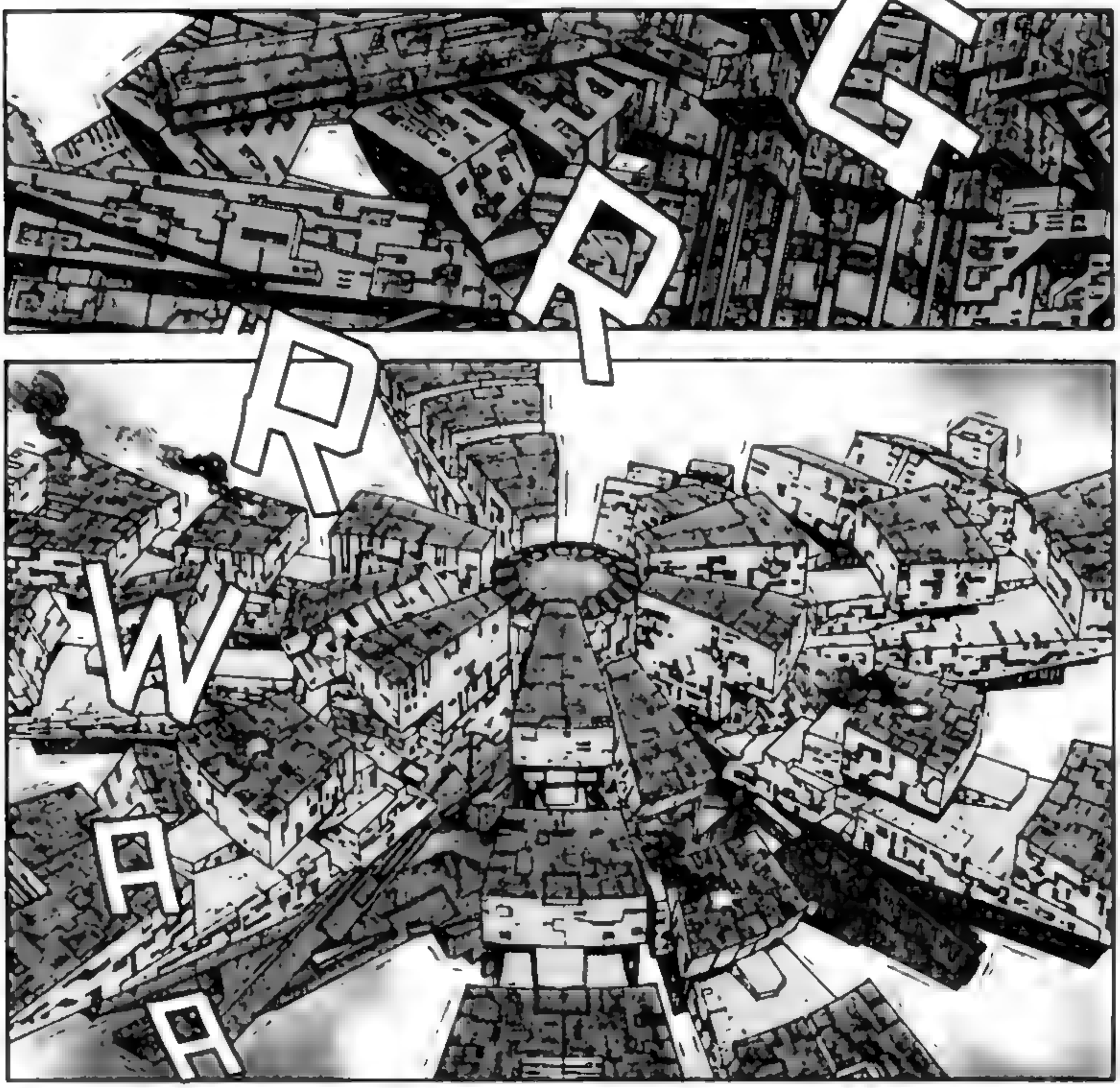
DESTINY WILL RE-UNITE US AGAIN ON EARTH!!

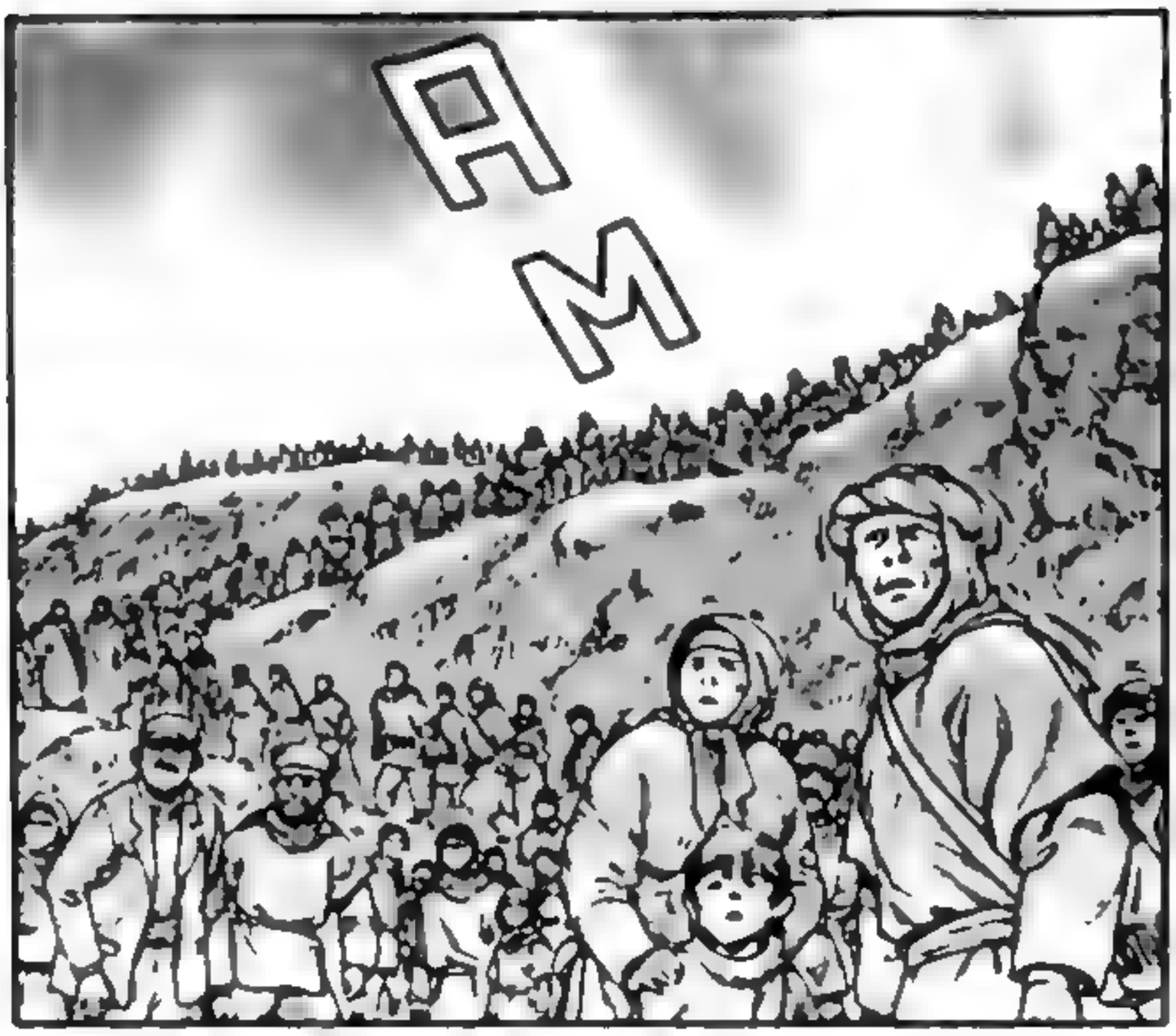
FLAP

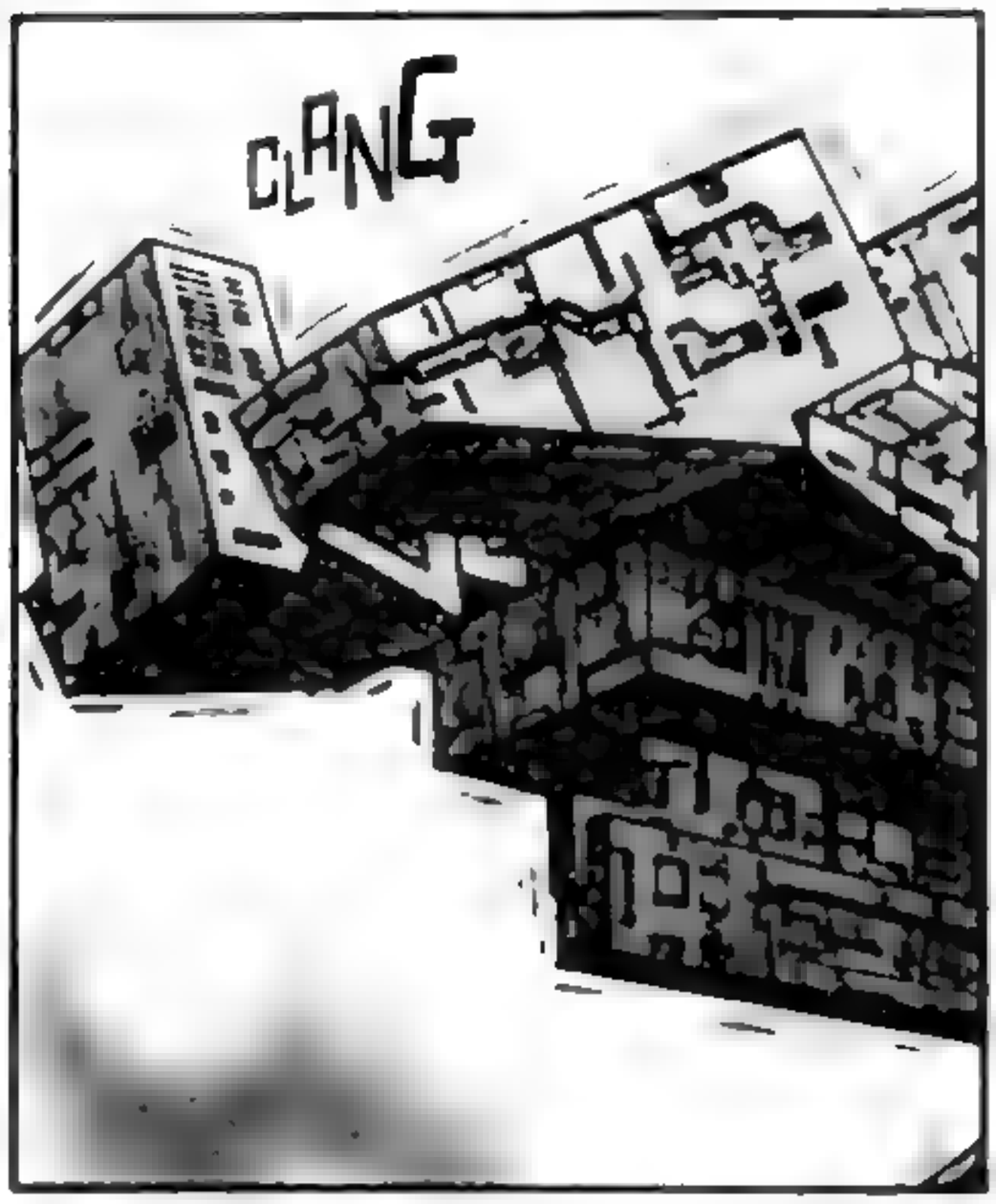
BAAARD!

MAA

RWAR


PRET
WAR
A
A


PEACE
M


CLANG

GRRWAAAM

BAM

BAOUUUM

BOUM

CLANG

GRRWAAAM

GRRWAAAM

BADAMOZE

...

THE COLONY IS COLLAPSING!

S'ABOUT DAMN TIME!

WE'VE USED UP ALL OF OUR MISSILES AS WELL.

TELEGRAPH!

DO YOU KNOW YET IF COMMANDER HAMED IS SAFE!?

NOT YET.

SHIT...

OHH...

IT'S IN-CREDIBLE!

BARD! WHERE ARE YOU!?

BADA

HAH! HAH!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

HE'S AL-READY DEAD!

TSUE, CAN YOU GO FIND ME SOME PRESSURIZED SUITS?

IF WE LEAVE THEM LIKE THIS BEFORE THEY'VE ADAPTED TO THE ATMOSPHERE...

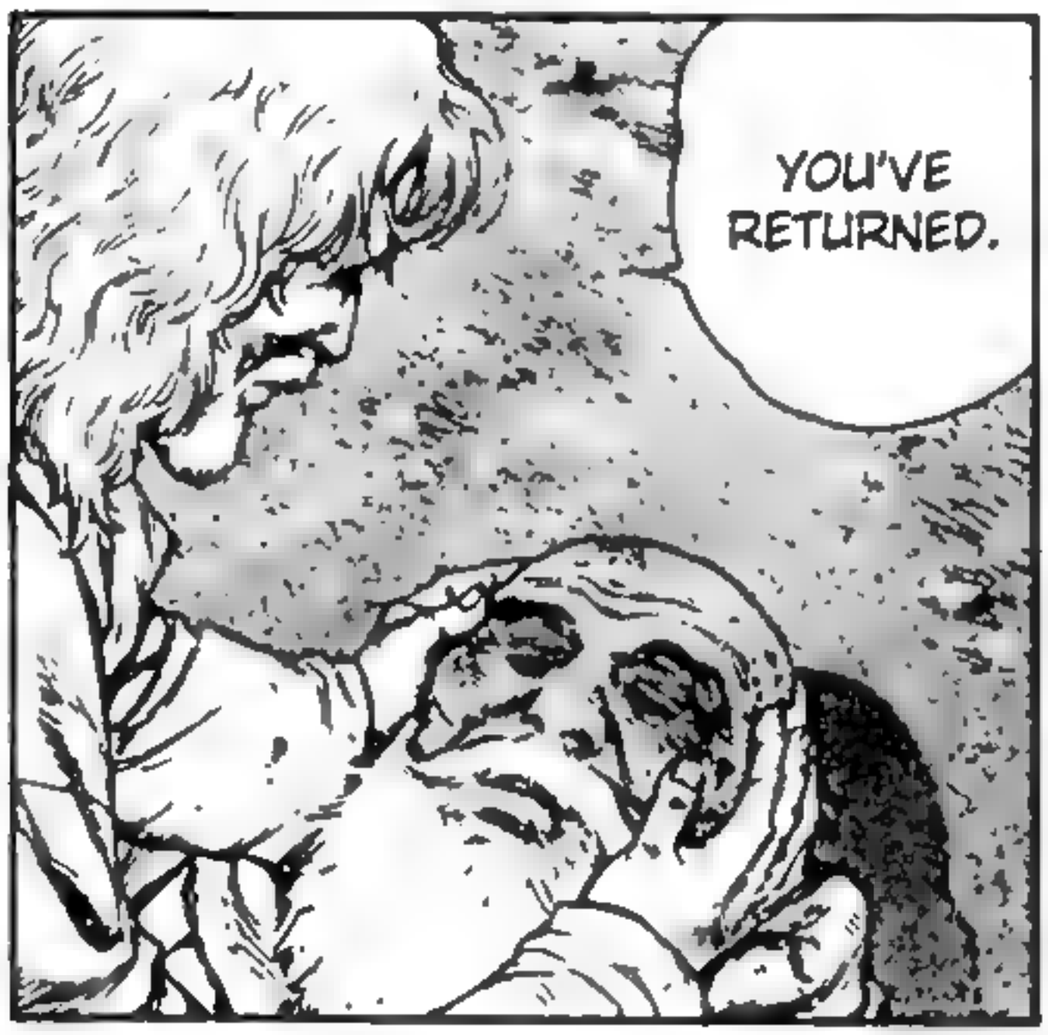
THEIR BODIES WON'T MAKE IT!!

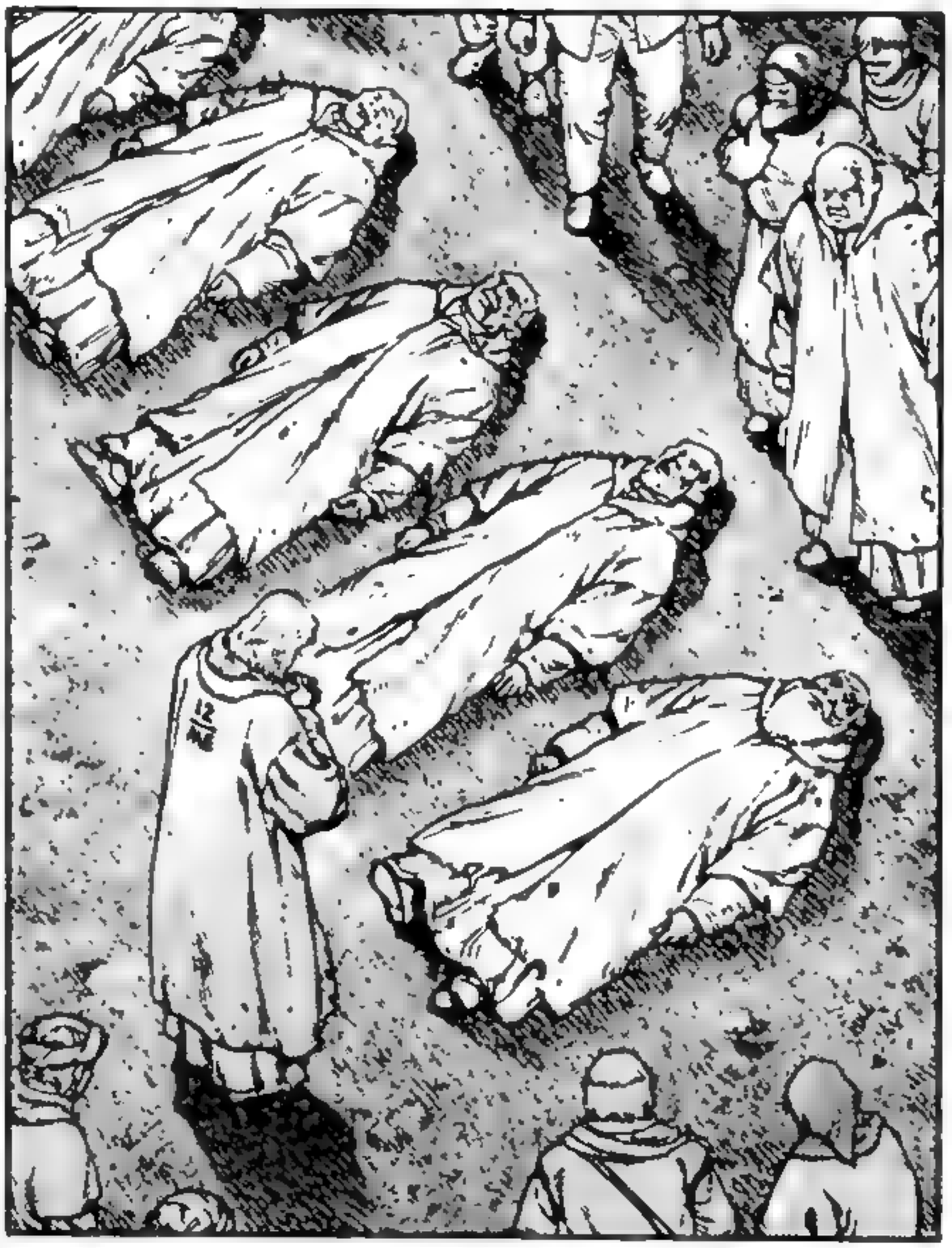
HEY, HOLD ON! CUT IT OUT WITH THAT NONSENSE!

WHERE IN THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FIND SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN A SHITHOLE LIKE THIS!?

!

IT'S THE EARTH, ASSYRE... EARTH.


YOU'VE RETURNED.



TADAM

STAD

BARD, I WAS LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! I WAS SO SCARED!

ARE YOU HURT, BARD?

I'M FINE.

I ONLY HAVE A LITTLE VERTIGO.

IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE AIR.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

GO HELP THE OTHER SURVIVORS INSTEAD.

I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE AILING PEOPLE WHO NEED MEDICINE.

ALRIGHT.

SHWIP

WE WILL BECOME THE GRAINS OF EARTH...

YOU'RE RIGHT!

YOU'VE FINALLY RETURNED, BARD...

I'D LIKE TO SEE THESE POTATOES GROW ALL OVER THE GLOBE...

ONCE THEY'VE STARTED GROWING HERE...

WE HAD PLANNED TO GO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,

JUST LIKE SPORES CAST OUT BY THE FLOWERS.

THEY WILL FALL ON THOSE LANDS...

AND THERE, DESTINY WILL AWAIT...

THE HOPE...

THE FUTURE.

...

BURN EVERY-THING!

ALL OF THOSE BASTARDS FROM COLONY ARE INFECTED!

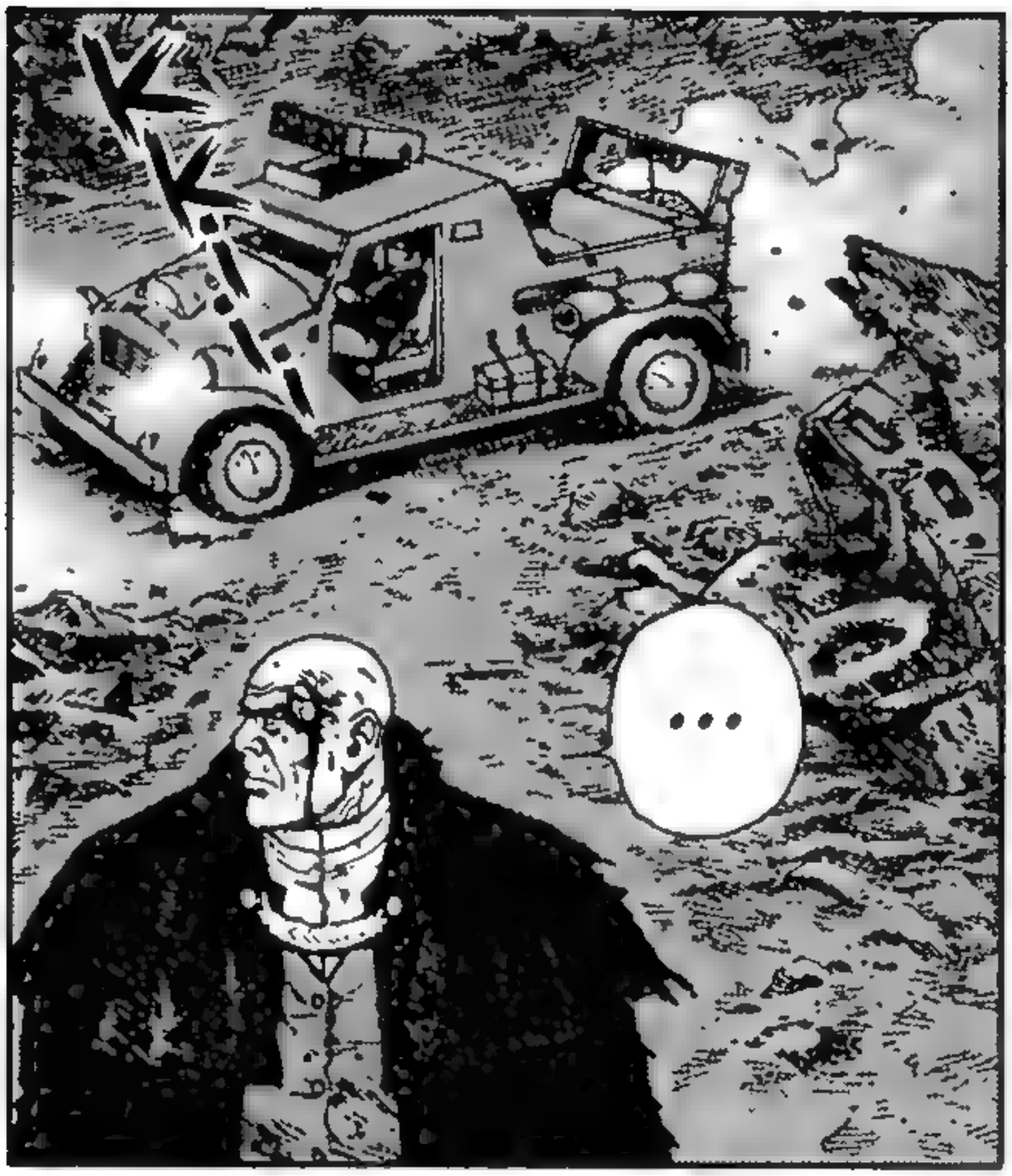
ONCE YOU FIND THEM, YOU NEED TO KILL THEM AND BURN THE CORPSES!

IF WE DON'T BURN THEM, THEIR BODIES WILL BE COVERED WITH MOLD...

AND FROM THERE, THE MICROBES WILL BREAK OUT AND IT'LL INFECT US!

WOMEN, KIDS, THE FRAIL AND THE ELDERLY WILL BE THE FIRST TO DIE! AND IT WON'T STOP UNTIL IT DESTROYS THE WHOLE PLANET!

BURN THEM ALL!


...

STAD

MISTER PRESIDENT!

I'M EXTREMELY HAPPY THAT YOU'RE SAFE!

WEREN'T YOU WITH COMMANDER HAMED?

HUH?

C-COM-
MANDER!

DO YOU KNOW THE CAPTAIN OF THE INVESTIGATION SQUAD... TOMARU, I THINK IT WAS?

WHERE IS HE RIGHT NOW?

WASN'T HIS SQUAD ANNIHILATED!?

HE'S STILL ALIVE! AND ***HE'S*** THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DISASTER!

HE WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE A COURT-MARTIAL!

ARREST HIM WITHOUT FAIL AND GET GOING!

UHH...

R-RIGHT!

UNDER-STOOD!

HEEEY! IS ANYBODY HERE!?

HAH! HAH!

I'MA BLOW MY DAMN TICKER OUT AT THIS RATE...

HOP LA HOP

AIN'T EVEN GETTING A DAMN PENNY...

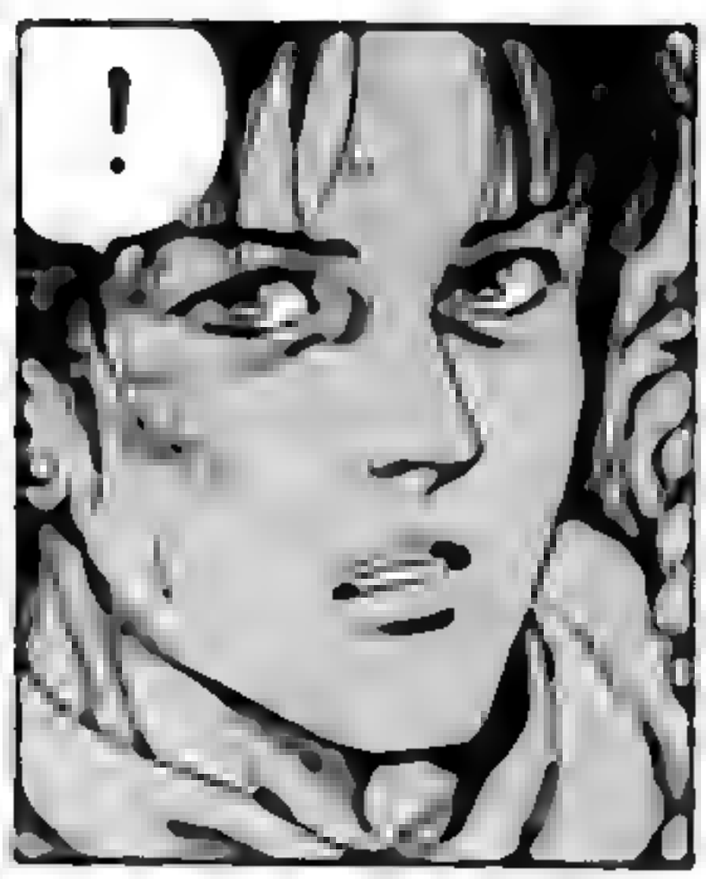
I'M A DAMN FOOL!

EHH
EHH

BOOM

POC
POC

?!



FLAP

CRAC CRAC

?!

GWAP

THESE BODIES ARE HEALTHY!
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY DISEASE!

NO, PLEASE STOP THAT!!

THAC

BARD!!
FLAP

BAM

BRAK

uuu...

YOU FUCKING FANATICS...

YOU CREATED A VIRUS IN SPACE THROUGH GENETIC MANIPULATION!

OR MAYBE...

YOU CAUGHT IT BY ACCIDENT DURING THE EXPERIMENTS!

SHLAF

WH... WHAT...

THAT'S FALSE! THAT'S A LIE...

THE BOOK OF PROPHECIES WAS RIGHT! IT SAID THAT YOU WOULD

DESCEND FROM THE SKY WITH THE SOLE INTENTION OF SULLYING THE EARTH!

I'LL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO BURY YOUR CONTAMINATED BODIES!

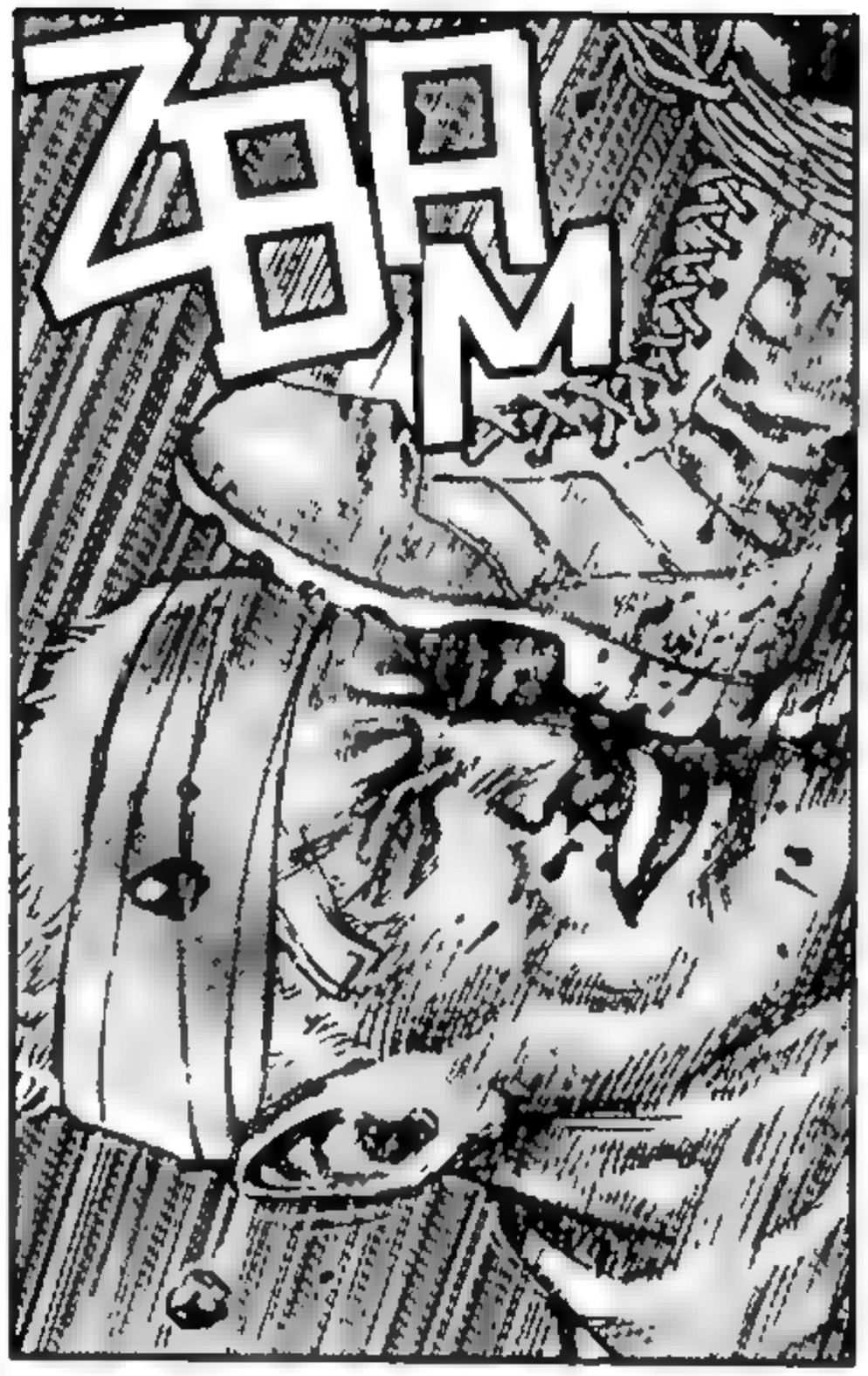
YOU EXTERMINATED MY MEN WITHOUT ANY PITY! YOU ERASED THEM LIKE THEY WERE NOTHING!

Y... YOU WERE PART OF THAT GROUP!?

TARATATA

TATATATA

BAAARD!!


ZBRM

BEEM

SHLAP

BARD!!

BARD!!

AM... BACK...

SA... RAH...

TADAM

?!

BA...

OOOOOO!!

BAAAAAARD!!

BAAAAAAARRD...

YEAAAHH HOOOOOO !!

GO TO HELL, YOU MANGY MOTHER FUCKERS!!

TA TA TA TA

!

TCHAC

BRAK

WHEN WILL YOU STOP...

SACRIFICING PEOPLE SIMPLY SO THAT

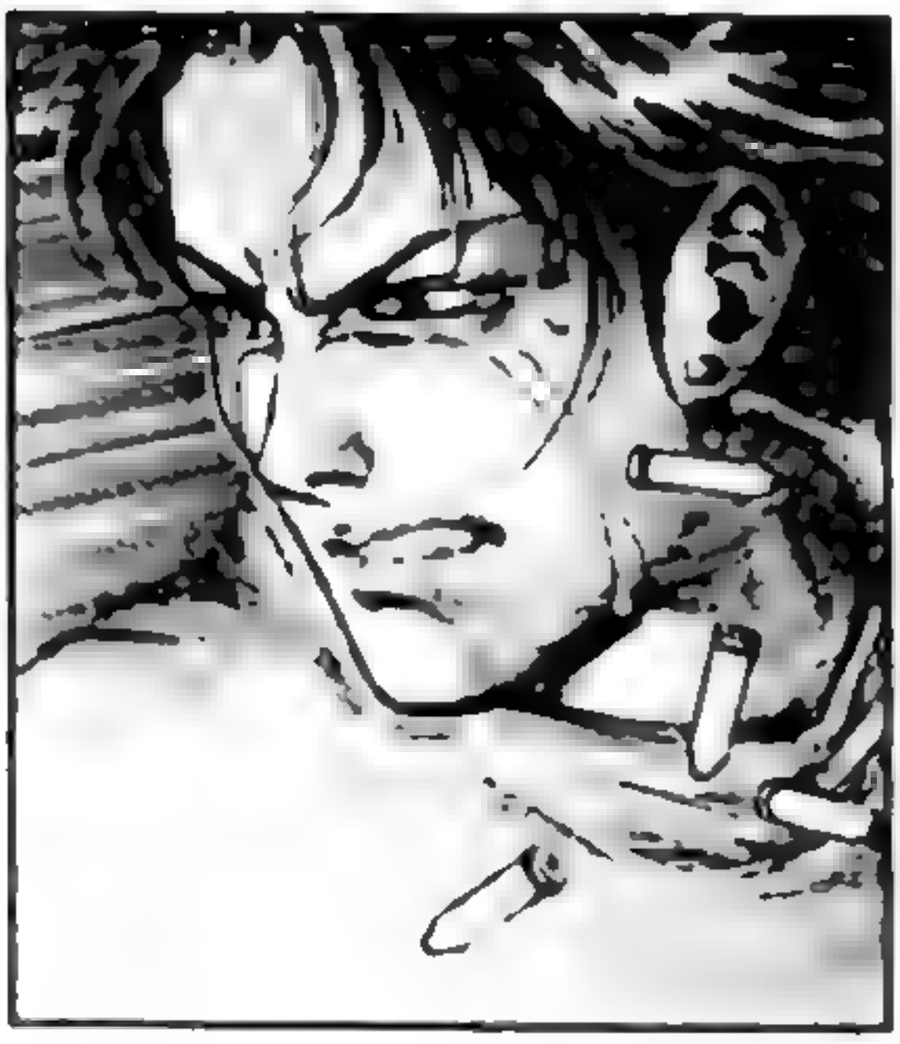
YOU CAN APPEASE YOUR BLOOD THIRST!?

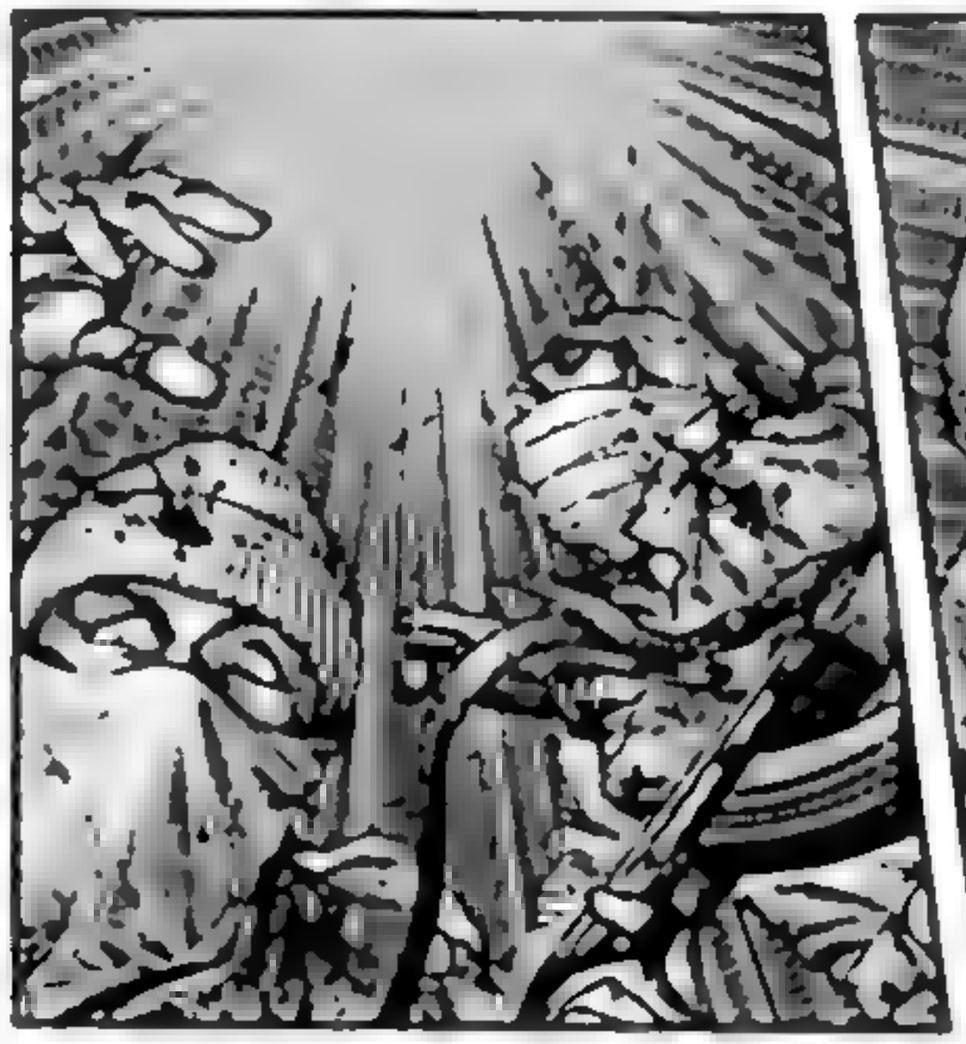
HEHE... I HAVE A GIANT HOLE IN MY HEART.

SO DEEP THAT NOBODY CAN SEE THE BOTTOM,

SO DEEP THAT NOBODY CAN FILL IT!

TARATATATATATATA
!

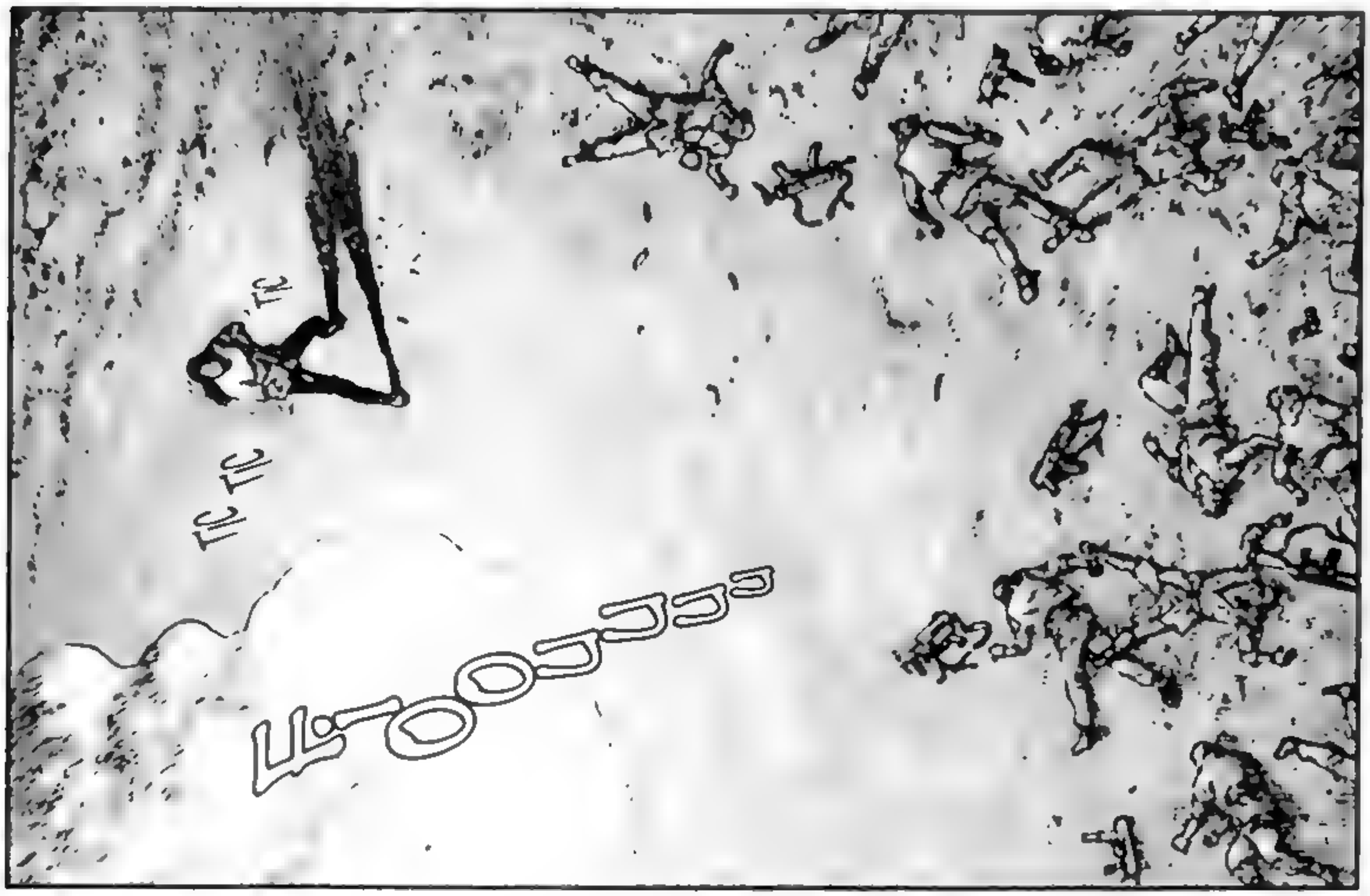


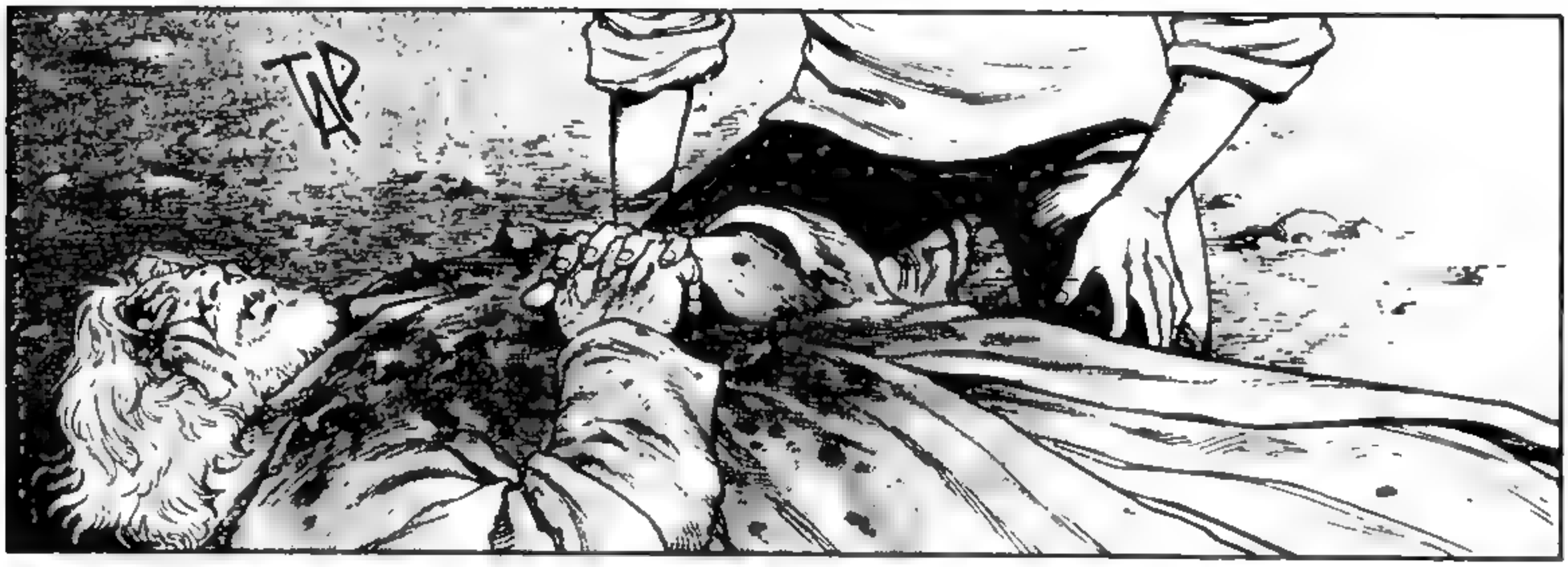


S-
SARAH...

TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC

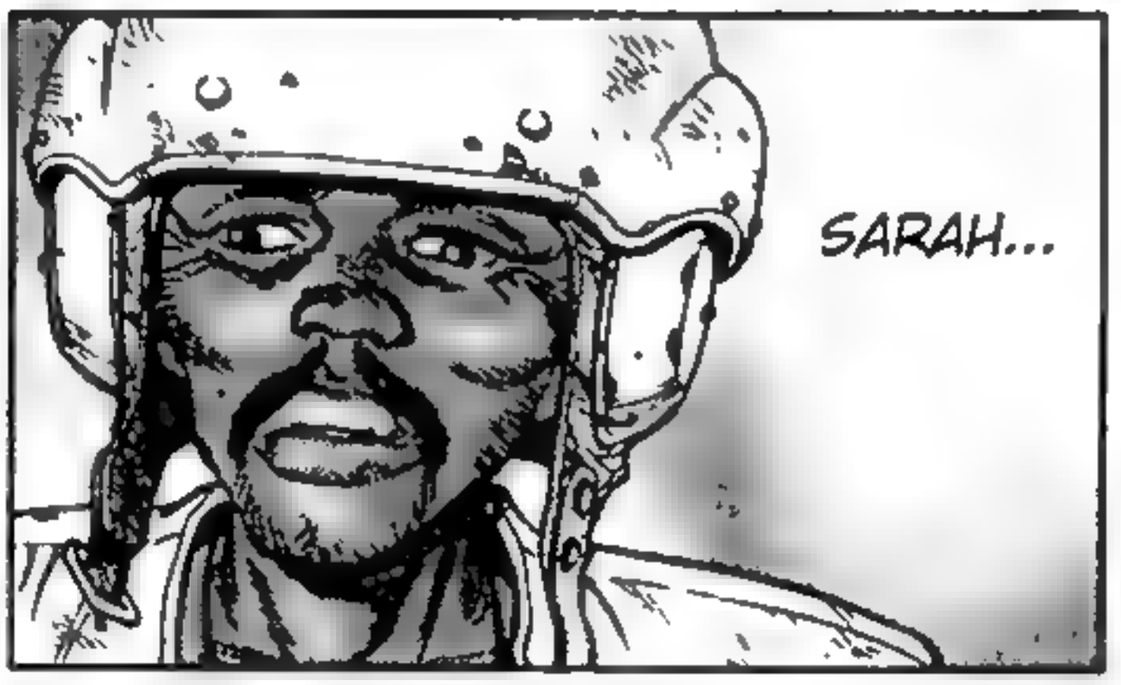
TIC TIC TIC TIC



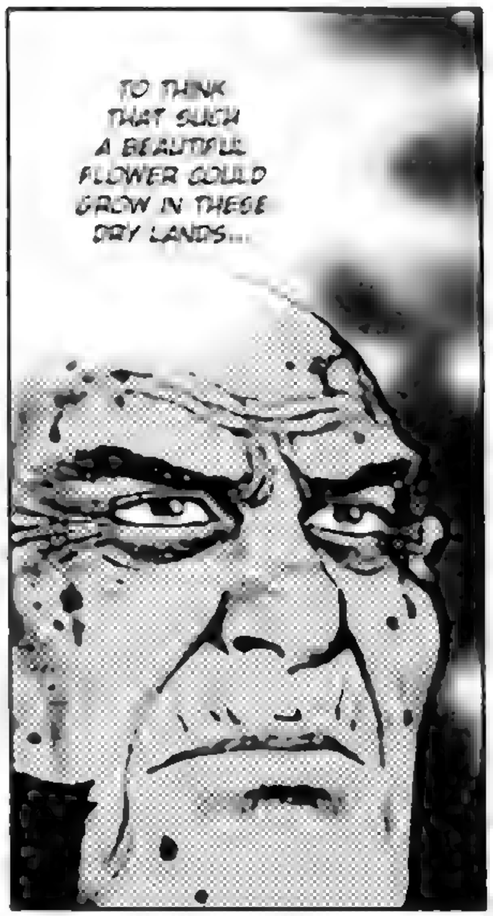


UUU...
GUUHH...
HUUUU...

...


SARAH...

TO THINK THAT SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER COULD GROW IN THESE DRY LANDS...



AND WE JUST...

RIPPED IT RIGHT OUT OF THE GROUND

BRAOUM

KIKIIIII

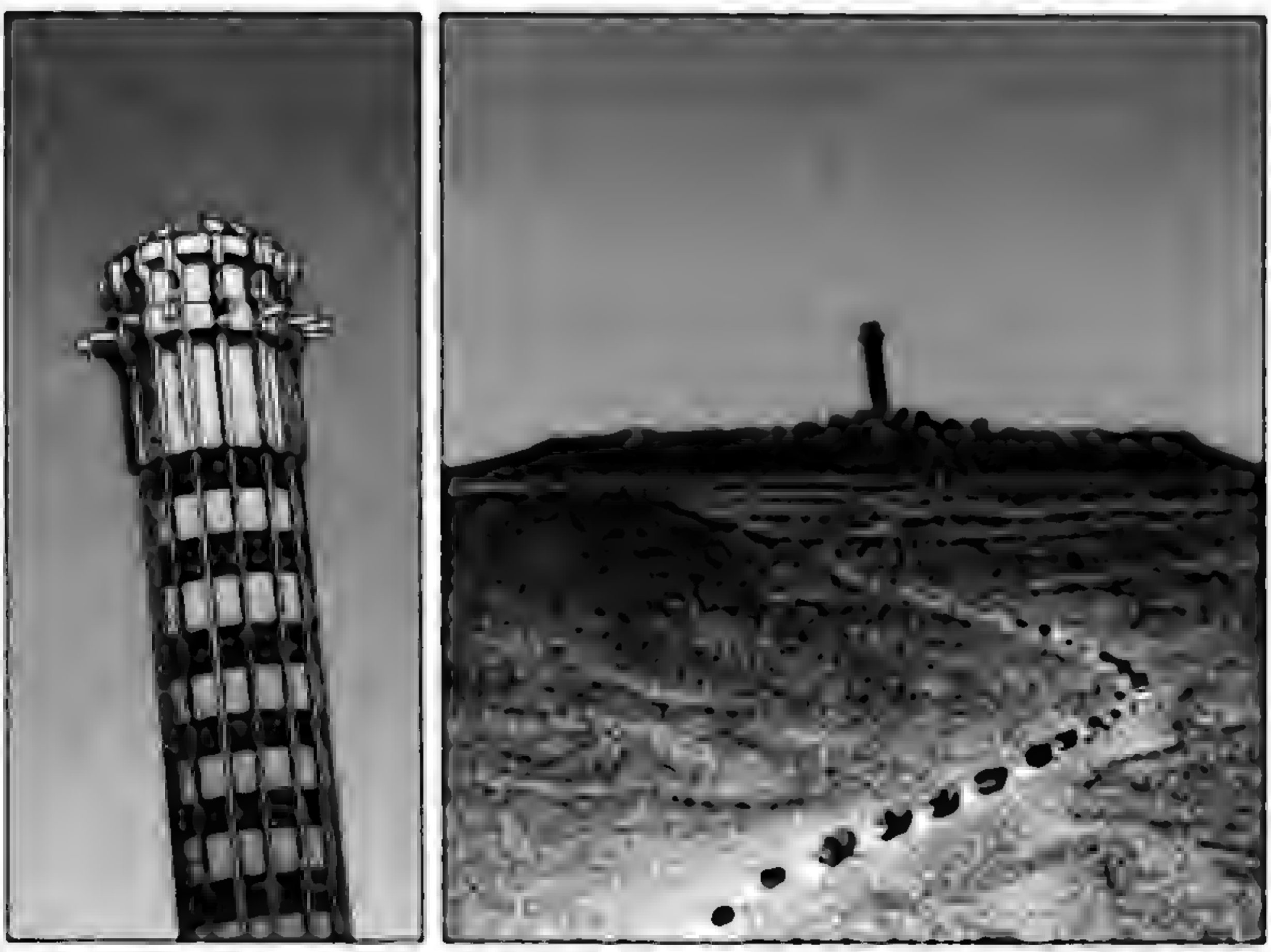
MISTER PRESIDENT! WE'RE READY TO WITHDRAW!

GOT IT...

BROUUUUM

BRRO

...



SAM

MARK

SOME WEEKS LATER...

SAM

MARK

SUSAN

WELL, SARAH? HAVE THE SEEDS STARTED SPROUTING?

NO, NOT YET. BUT ONCE WE'LL GET A LITTLE BIT MORE SUN...

BARD

BARD

...

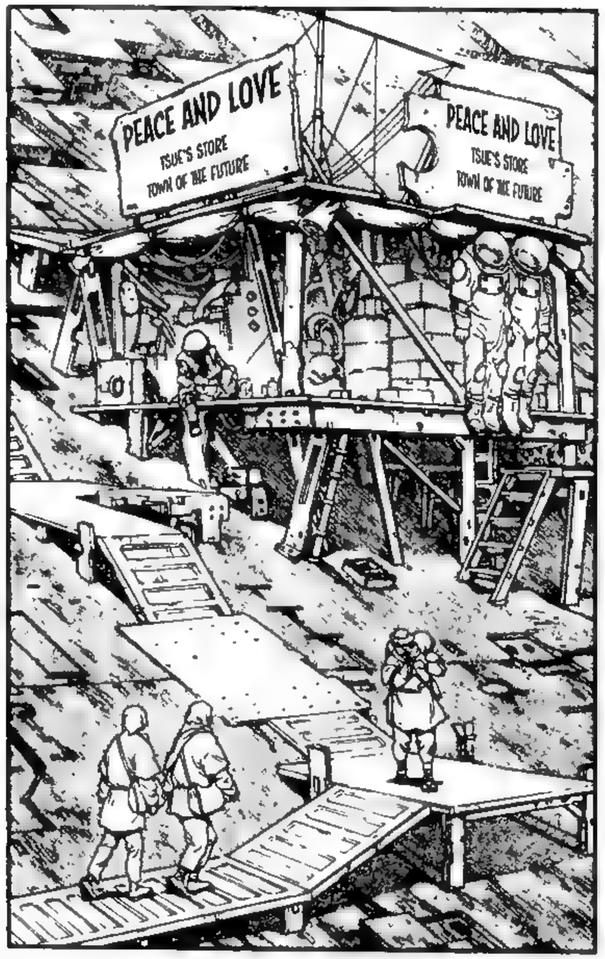
I'M STARTING TO GET TIRED... HOW ABOUT WE HEAD BACK?

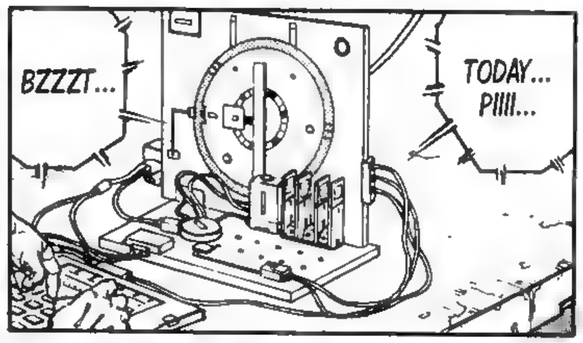
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?

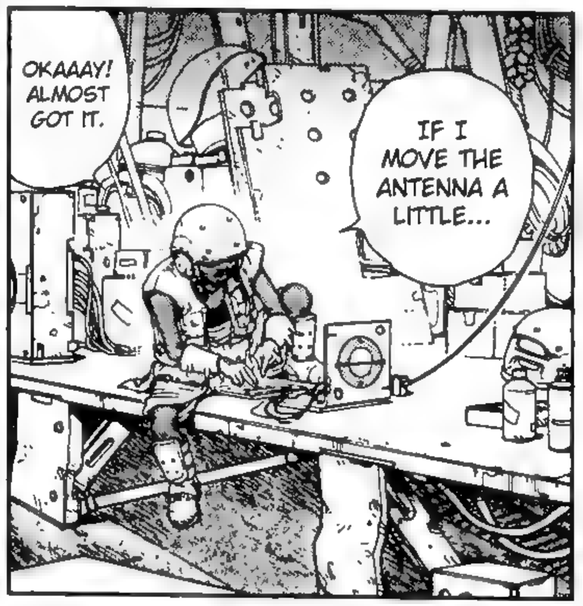
YES.

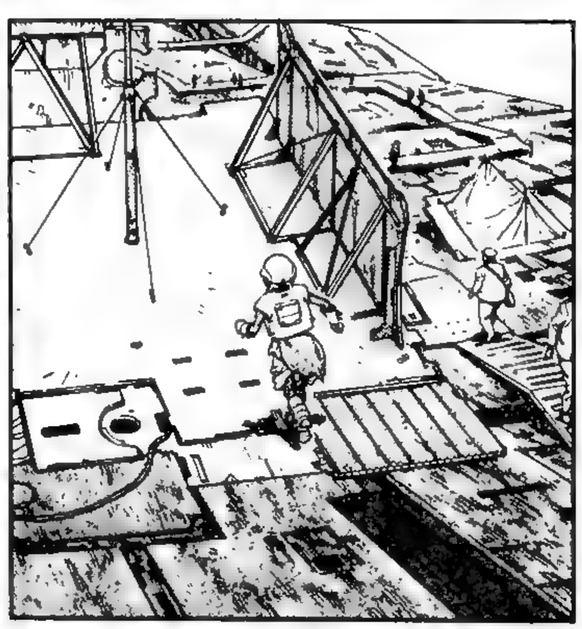
I HAVE PALPITATIONS WHEN I MOVE AROUND TOO MUCH...

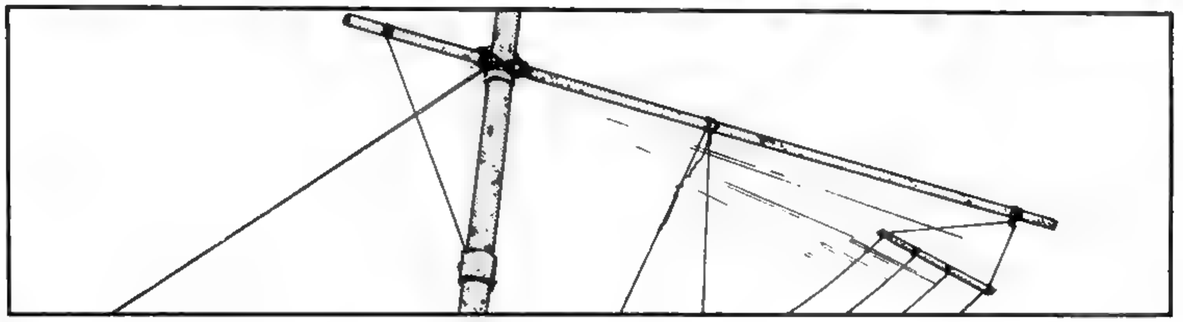
BUT BESIDES THAT, I'M DOING FINE.


PEACE AND LOVE
TSUE'S STORE
TOWN OF THE FUTURE
PEACE AND LOVE
TSUE'S STORE
TOWN OF THE FUTURE


BZZZT...
TODAY... PIIII...


OKAAAY! ALMOST GOT IT.
IF I MOVE THE ANTENNA A LITTLE...





BZZZTT... IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF BYRON'S PEACE CONFERENCE, THE PROCEEDINGS HAVE DEVELOPED AGAINST THE DISSIDENT SQUAD FROM BZZZZ...

JIRO, THE LEADER OF THE EPOCH BATTALION, HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER THE PEACE CONFERENCE'S SURVEILLANCE

BZZZT...

PEACE AND LOVE

PEACE AND LOVE

AS HE IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING SPIED ON THE COLONY UNDER EPOCH'S GENERAL BATES' ORDERS...

HE IS CURRENTLY BEING HEARD BY THE PEACE CONFERENCE'S SENIOR OFFICIALS...

AS A KEY WITNESS TO M.E.

HOW'S IT GOING? CAN YOU HEAR SOMETHING NOW?

SHH, LISTEN TO THIS!

WE ARE NOW RETRANSMITTING LIVE FROM BYRON THE STATEMENTS BY JIRO, THE LEADER OF THE EPOCH BATTALION.

LIEUTENANT TOMARU, COMMANDER OF *M.E.*'S INVESTIGATION SQUAD, HAD TAKEN THE DECISION ON HIS OWN FOR THIS MISSION.

EPOQUE

HE HAD THEN ASKED ME TO HELP HIM WITH THIS OPERATION THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO REVEAL THE COLONY'S SCHEME SO THAT HE COULD REPORT TO COMMANDER HAMED THE SECOND HE GOT BACK TO THE VILLAGE.

AND YES, I DID INDEED HELP THE LIEUTENANT!

AT THAT TIME, DID LIEUTENANT TOMARU KNOW WHAT ARMY YOU BELONGED TO AND WHAT RANK YOU HELD?

...

NO, I HAD BEEN ORDERED NOT TO DIVULGE THEM.

IT WAS JUST A RECON-NAISSANCE MISSION!

SHLAP

YOU WEREN'T ORDERED ANYTHING FURTHER!

WE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO ORGANIZE A SQUAD OF OUR OWN EARLIER,

THEREFORE WE HAD TO KEEP ***M.E.***'S SQUAD UNDER SURVEILLANCE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE INVESTIGATION DIDN'T UNIQUELY SERVE COMMANDER HAMED'S PLANS!

SHLAP

DON'T LOOK FOR FAKE EXCUSES, GENERAL BATES!

YOU KNEW PERFECTLY WELL THAT PRESIDENT HANS ACCOMPANIED HIM AS AN IMPARTIAL WITNESS!

UGH...

NO... PRESIDENT HANS' DECISION WAS ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.

I DIDN'T RECEIVE ANY REPORT OR ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION!

EPOCH IS PLOTTING AGAINST MOTHER EARTH!!

EPOCH

EXACT-LY!!

WHY DIDN'T BATES ACCOMPANY HIS MEN!?

THEY FORCED US TO HANDLE EVERYTHING WITH THE COLONY UNDER PRETEXT THAT IT CONCERNED ONLY THE TWO M.E.'S!!

HEAR, HEAR!

NO. AT THAT TIME, LIEUTENANT TOMARU DIDN'T HAVE A NORMAL STATE OF MIND.

WE'VE BEEN HAD!!

WHO DO YOU TAKE US FOR?

PRESI-
DENT!

SHLAP

THEY'RE LOSING THEIR COOL!

WE CAN'T HAVE A SUIT-ABLE HEARING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS!!

SILENCE!!

YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION!

WHOEVER BEHAVES IN AN OFFENSIVE MANNER TOWARD THE CONFERENCE AGAIN WILL BE EXPELLED WITHOUT EXCEPTION!

YOU KNOW VERY WELL, MISTER PRESIDENT, THAT I HAD THE INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING

A NEW ORDER IN CLOSE COLLABERATION WITH COMMANDER HAMED!

HOW WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLOT ANYTHING WHATSOEVER?

THIS IS A JOKE!

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT, BUT SINCE THE CONFERENCE CONTINUES TO THROW OUT UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS,

I SHALL BE FORCED TO VACATE MY SEAT.

CLAC

ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY, YOU PIG!?

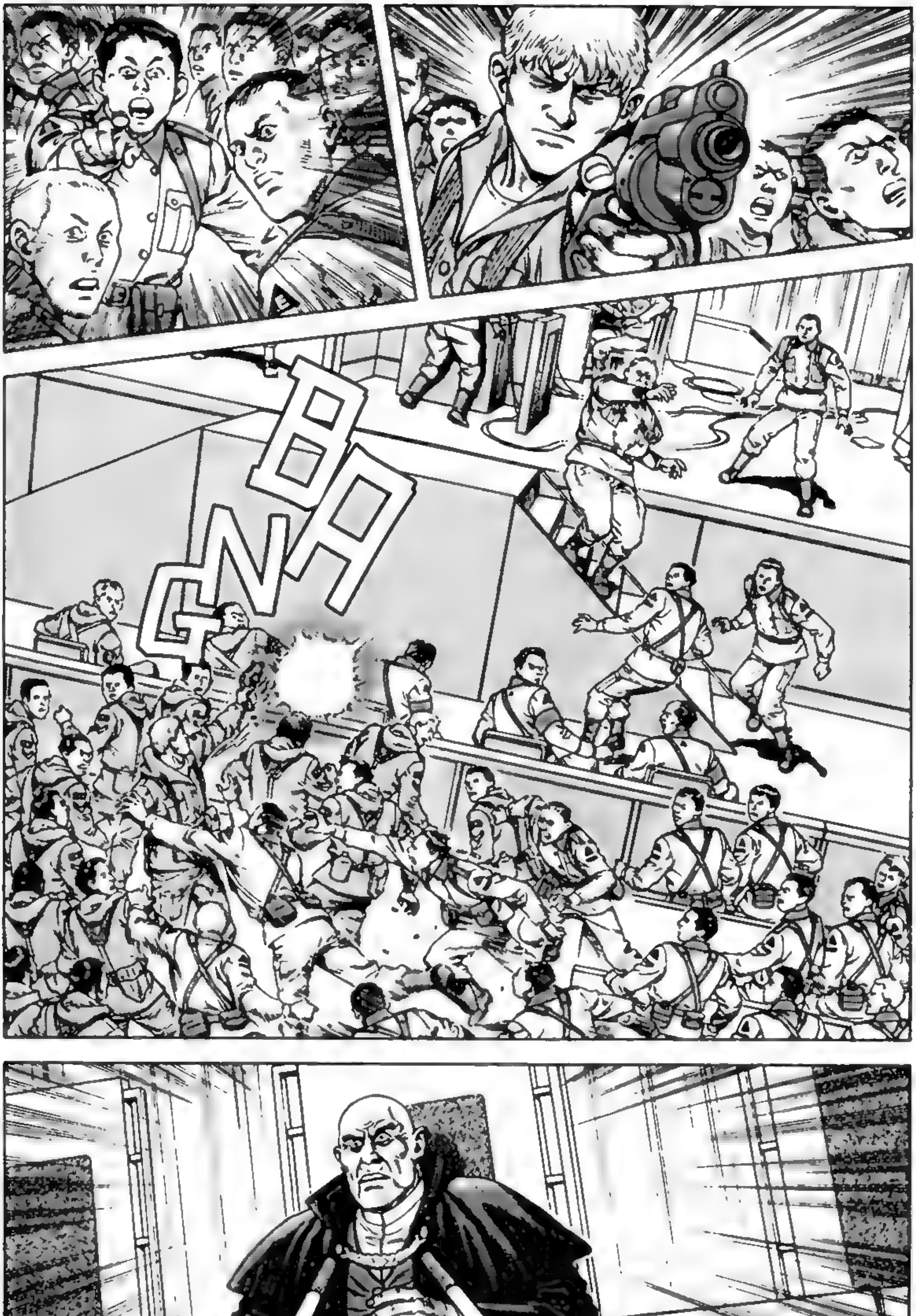
IF YOU'RE RUNNIN' AWAY, IT'S 'CUZ YOU'VE GOT SHIT TO HIDE!

FUCKING RIGHT! SIT YOUR ASS DOWN!

WHAT IS PEACE TO YOU, COWARD!?

HAVE YOU NO SHAME!?

!!


BBC

WAM

QUAAA

AH!!

CRAC CRAC

AND WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

DID THE LEADER OF EPOCH DIE?

HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION, BUT...

WE DON'T KNOW IF HE MADE IT OUT OR NOT.

WHAT ABOUT THE CONFER-ENCE?

ACTUALLY, A COUPLE OF HOURS AFTER THE INCIDENT, REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH CAMPS CAME TOGETHER AT THE PARLIAMENT...

DESPITE THE SERIES OF MISFORTUNES THAT KEEP HITTING US...

WE, THE MEMBER OF THE PEACE CONFER-ENCE,

MUST FIGHT AND DEFEAT OUR DESTINY!

THE SAME THING GOES FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY AS WE ARE THE FINAL HOPE THAT REMAINS!

FOR THIS PURPOSE, I PROPOSE TO TEAR DOWN THE WALL SEPERATING BOTH FACTIONS!

HENCEFORTH, STARTING NOW, THE TOTALITY OF ALL THE SOLIDERS AND MILITARY FORCE

WILL BE PLACED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE EMERGENCY PROTECTION ARMY OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE!

HUH!?

WHAT!?

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM

THE LEADERS OF BOTH ARMIES.

AN OFFICIAL REPORT WILL BE SENT TO EACH CAMP AT THE END OF THIS SESSION!

THAT EMERGENCY PROTECTION ARMY THING, AIN'T THEY THAT MONGREL GROUP THAT GUARDS CONFERENCE HEAD-QUARTERS!?

SHLAP

IS THIS A JOKE!?

FOR WHAT REASON DO WE HAVE TO BE UNDER ORDERS FROM THOSE PEOPLE!?

THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE REGULAR TROOPS!

AND YOU'RE ASKING US TO SURRENDER OUR PRIDE!?

YES, EXACTLY!! THAT'S THE WORD!!

THAT DAMNED PRIDE IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN OBSTACLE THAT ONLY WORSENS THE SITUATION!!

PAY ATTENTION, I WANT YOU TO HEAR ME CLEARLY!!

YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS LIKE BETWEEN BOTH CAMPS!!

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT PRIDE!!

ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE WAITING WHILE DOING NOTHING AS OUR RATIONS OF FOOD RUN OUT?

OR DO YOU PLAN ON BECOMING BANDITS WITH THE WEAPONS YOU HAVE LEFT!?

I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME...

INSTEAD OF CONTINUING WITH THESE NEGATIVE TRENDS, IT IS BETTER TO START ALL OVER ANEW WITH EVERYONE HELPING MUTUALLY SO THAT WE CAN SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS!!

ENOUGH OF THE ABSURD CHARADES ALREADY!!

SHLAP

SHLAP

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND THAT SPEACH OF YOURS!?

WRAAK

!!

WRAAK

WRAAK

DA DA DA DADADA

U

U

DA DA DA DA DA DA

TCHAC

I PRESENT TO YOU MISTER ULRICH, CAPTAIN OF THE EMERGENCY PROTECTION ARMY!

MISTER ULRICH, PLEASE STEP FORWARD!

GOGON

TCHAC

EVEN IF HIS RANK IS ONLY THAT OF CAPTAIN FOR THE TIME BEING, *HE* IS THE ONE WHO WILL BE GIVING OUT ALL THE ORDERS!

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THIS ARMY IS ALREADY COMPOSED OF MANY FORMER SOLDIERS FROM BOTH ***M.E.*** AND EPOCH!

AS YOU'VE ALL JUST HEARD, OUR ARMY HAS JUST BEEN ESTABLISHED!!

ADMITTEDLY, WE HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE AND OUR ORGANIZATION IS STILL POOR!!

FORTUNATELY, IT'S PRECISELY THANKS TO THE COOPERATION OF BOTH YOUR ARMIES THAT IT WILL VERY QUICKLY BECOME AN OFFICIAL NEUTRAL ARMY!

I AM CORDIALLY INVITING ALL OF YOU JOIN US AND BUILD OUR FUTURE TO-GETHER!

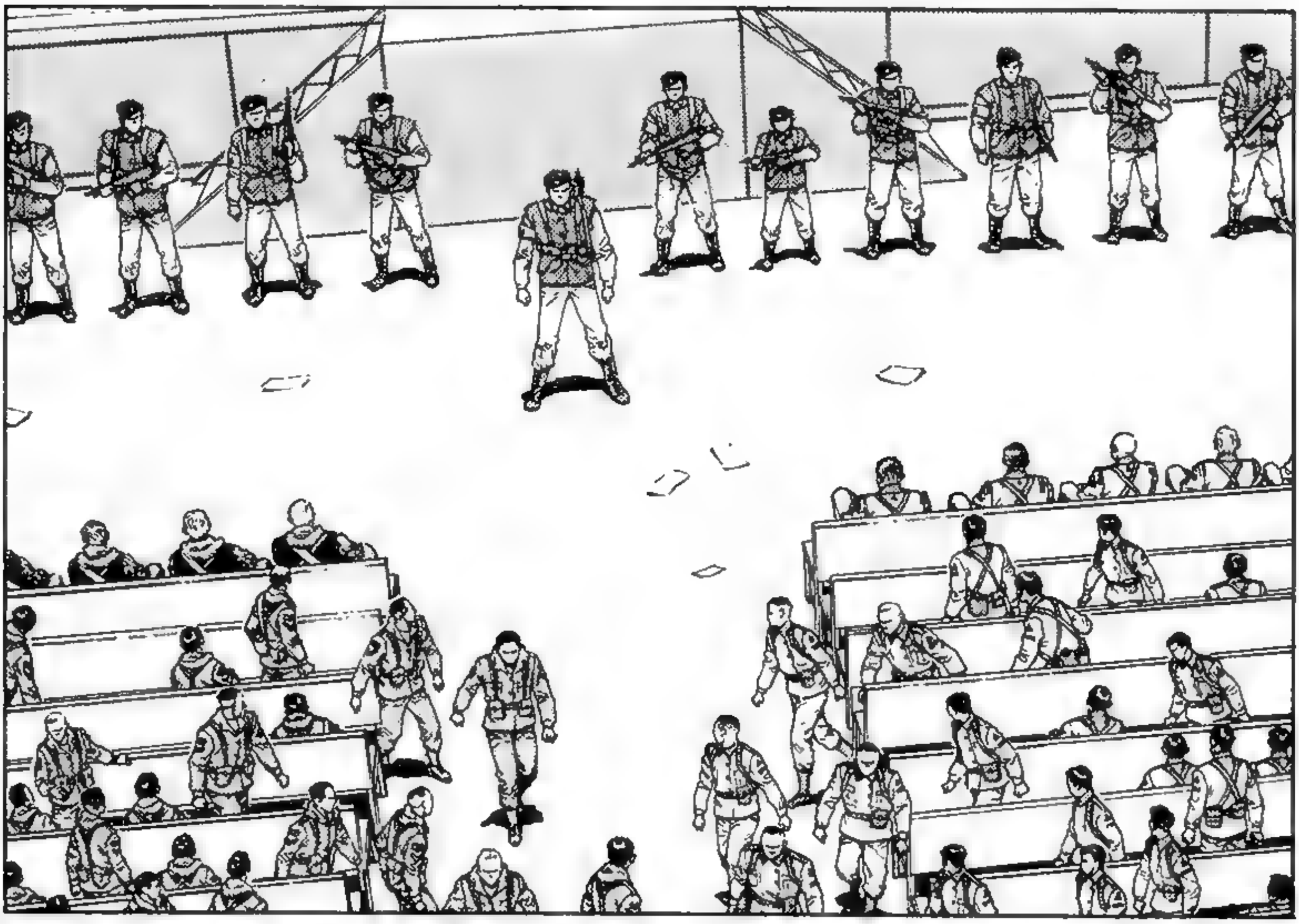
EPOCH

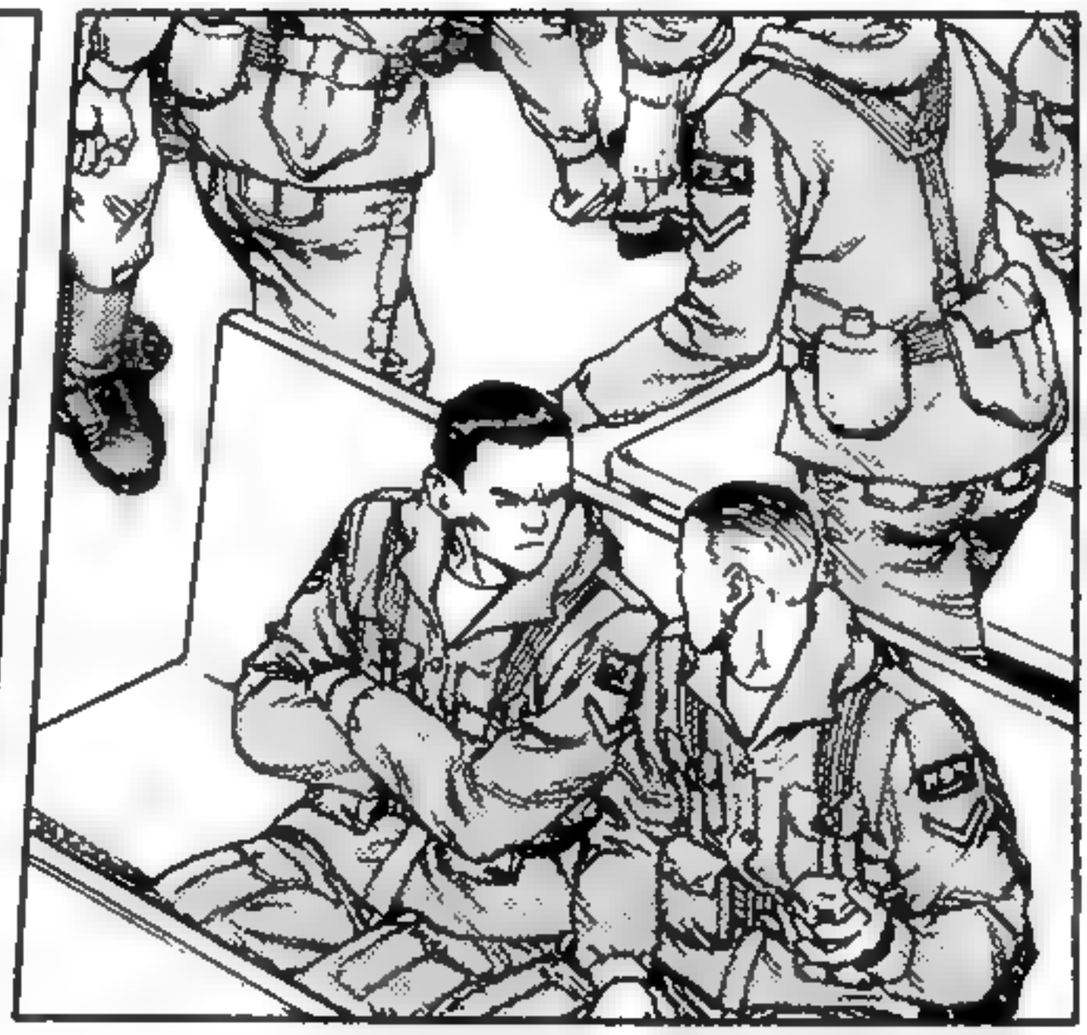
AND OF COURSE, THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS ARE FREE TO LEAVE THE ROOM!

THIS ISN'T AN IMPOSITION!

SHAD

SHAD
SHAD





...

...

CAN WE LET THEM LEAVE LIKE THIS?

IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN, RATZ.

THIS ISN'T JUST A DISCUSSION IN THE CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS.

WE WILL SHOW THE WHOLE WORLD

THAT WE CAN ESTABLISH A NEW ORDER!

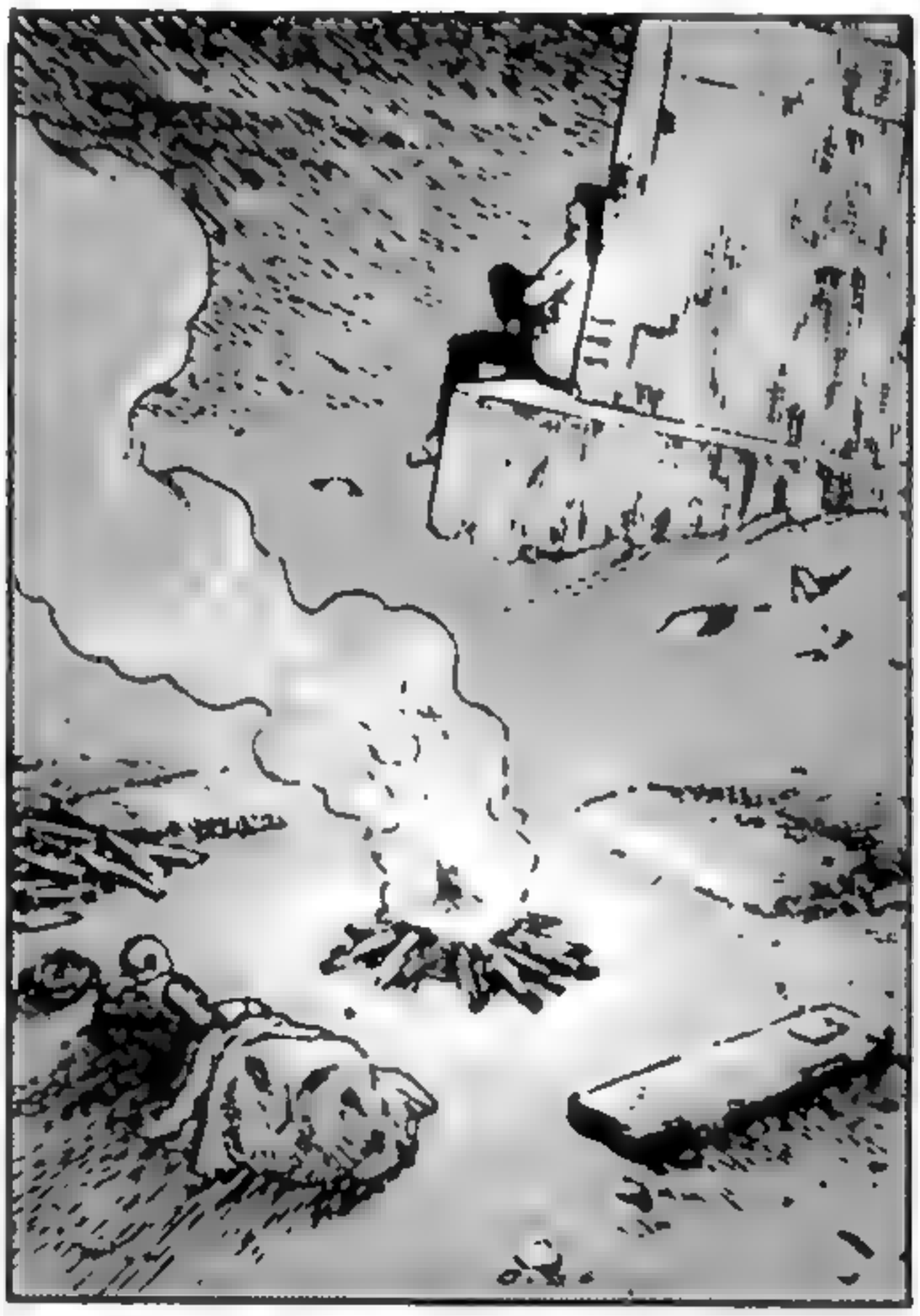
YOUR DAYS AS A GANGSTER ARE OVER, HARATO!

!

AH, RIGHT! I FORGOT. YOU DON'T USE THAT NAME ANYMORE.

FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A MUCH MORE IMPORTANT ROLE

AND I'LL BE COUNTING A LOT ON YOU!



HUAAH...

SARAH! WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING NOW?

WILL YOU LOOK FOR HARATO?

HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU GOT ANY PLANS IN MIND?

YOU'VE SCRAPED TOGETHER ENOUGH MATERIAL TO SELL, RIGHT?

YUP...

I'VE FOUND A LOT OF STUFF, BUT...

BUT I DON'T DO SALES BY CORRE-SPONDENCE.

I NEEDS ME A TRUCK!

WELL... THANKS TO THE COLONY, I WAS ABLE TO GET A WORK TRUCK, BUT THERE'S A LOT OF WORK I NEED TO PUT INTO IT.

AND THAT'S GONNA TAKE SOME TIME, SO...

I'M WAITING.

FOR WHAT?

THE SPROUTS.

SPROUTS!?

YOU MEAN THE POTATOES!?

I'M WAITING FOR THEM TO GROW AND AFTER THE HARVEST, I'LL GO ON A JOURNEY WITH A LOT OF SAMPLES IN MY BAGGAGE.

YES!

YOU PLAN ON GOING WHERE SATOKO LIVES?

YEAH, AND THEN...

WHERE AFTER THAT?

TO THE MOUNTAIN WHERE I BURIED KAZUKI

AND THEN, TO WHERE TSUMURI DIED.

I'LL PLANT BARD'S POTATOES IN ALL OF THESE IMPORTANT PLACES

SO THAT THEY CAN BE COVERED IN GREEN!

...

SIIIGH...

A NEW ODYSSEY...

HMM... BUT THOSE AREAS AIN'T THE BEST FOR BUSINESS...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

YOU WANT TO FOLLOW ME!?

HUH?

YOU WERE PLANNING TO GO ALONE!?

AND LEAVE ME HERE LIKE SOME DOOFUS!?

C'MON! THAT AIN'T RIGHT!

AFTER ALL THE TIME WE SPENT TRAVELING TOGETHER...

HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH CRUEL THINGS!?

UUU...

IT'S LIKE YOU CALLED ME A RETARD.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED YOU SAYING THAT!

UUUU... UHUUU...

IT'S ALRIGHT, TSUE! WE'LL GO TOGETHER.

!

HAHA! NOW *THAT'S* THE SARAH I KNOW!

WOOHOO!

HAHAHA!! BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.

ZZZ...

YOU SHOULDN'T LOCK YOURSELF UP TO OLD STORIES...

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A BABY WITH SOME PLAYBOY?

EH!?

WITH AN AFFLUENT MAN, SOMEONE YOU CAN COUNT ON... BECAUSE LOOKS AREN'T ALL THAT MATTER!

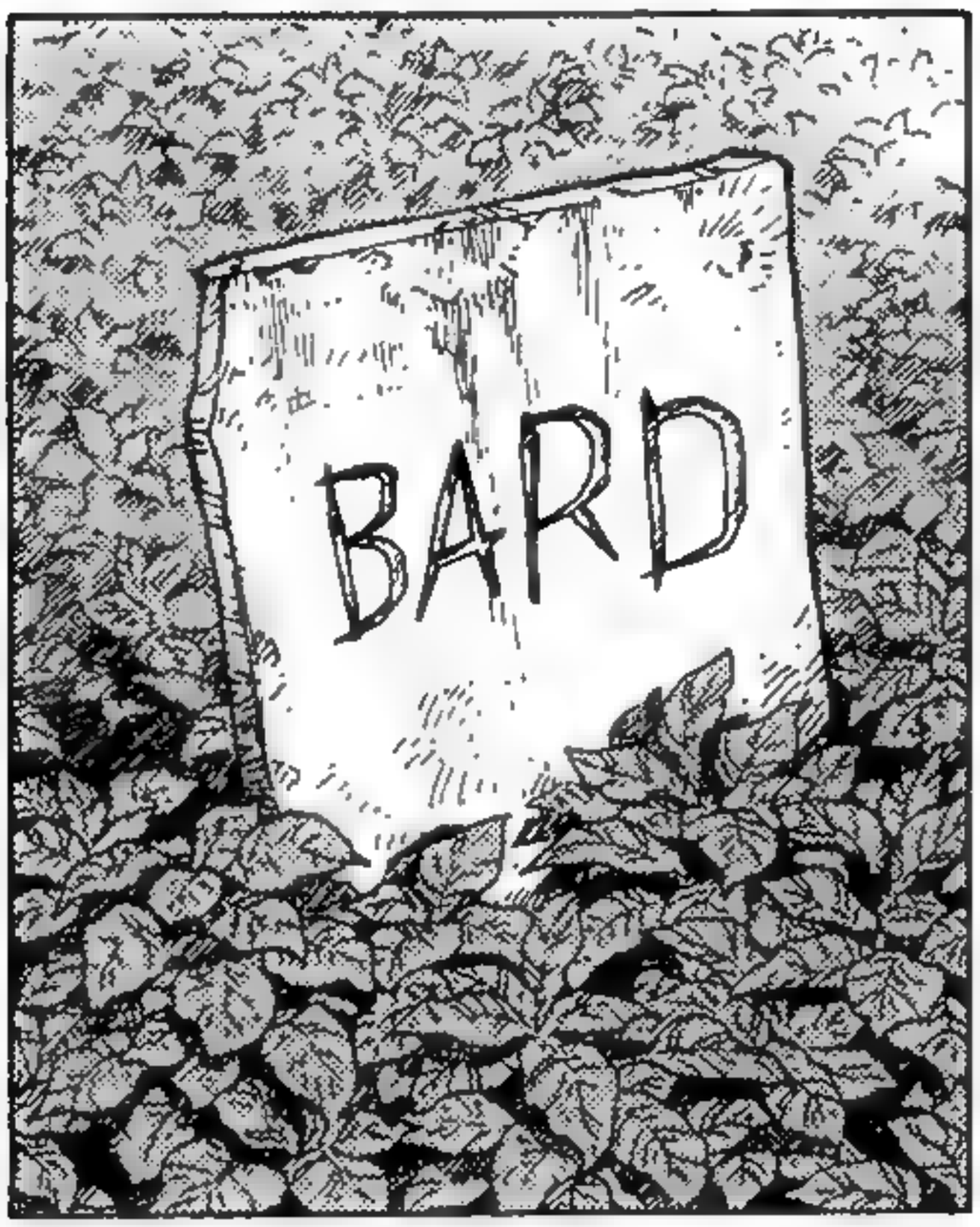
BEING A MAN MEANS BEING ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS!

HERE! I, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE PERFECT! HAHAHA...

HELLO!? ARE YOU SLEEPING!?

SARAH!

SHATTER


BARD

EMILY

BARD

SARAH!
WE GOTTA GO!

WE HAVE TO REACH BYRON BEFORE THE SUN SETS!

I'M LEAVING... BARD!

GOOD N

YOU DIDN'T FORGET THE POTATOES, RIGHT?

YEAH, I HAVE THEM.

WELL, HERE WE GO!

SCRAAAPE

SCRAAAPE

BRRR

!

SAY! THAT'S OLD MAN MUSSADI!

BRROUUUM

THEY ALL HARVEST POTATOES TOGETHER?

WHAT AN AMAZING SIGHT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES...

TO THINK THAT THIS USED TO BE A DESERT THAT MADE INTO A CEMETERY...

AND NOW IT'S A BEAUTIFUL POTATO FIELD!

PROUT!!

WH... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!? IT'S AWFUL!!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED. IF WE'RE EATING POTATOES EVERY DAY, THERE'S GOING TO BE A LITTLE GAS...

MOTHER SARAH

FIN